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Summit opens in Washington amid doubts of its success

By Michael Dobbs and John F. Harris
LA Times-Washington Post News Service

WASHINGTON—After brushing aside last-minute Arab appeals for a delay, President Clinton Tuesday convened an emergency summit meeting of Arab and Israeli leaders designed to break a new cycle of violence that threatens to wreck five years of tenuous Middle East peace negotiations.

The two-day meeting brought together King Hussein, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, but there is no guarantee of a successful outcome. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak bowed out Monday, and sent his foreign minister to represent him, because of what Egyptian officials termed "a lack of adequate preparations."

Risks are high and expectations low for the talks, which Clinton proposed over the weekend after clashes in Jerusalem, Gaza and the West Bank left more than 70 Palestinians and Israelis dead and more than 1,000 wounded in a burst of violence that put the Israel-Palestinian peace accord in jeopardy. "It is rare in this process that we engage at this level—at the highest level—without a preordained outcome," said presidential spokesman Mike McCurry said at the White House.

Netanyahu left Israel amid urgings from Likud Party patriots not to make concessions. Speaking with reporters en route to Washington, Netanyahu offered to hold "continuous negotiations" with the Palestinians on terms for withdrawing Israeli troops from the West Bank town of Hebron, a pullout originally scheduled to take place last March. But Israeli officials continued to flatly reject Arab demands that Israel close a pedestrian tunnel near Muslim and Jewish holy sites in East Jerusalem whose opening last week sparked Palestinian street riots and an armed confrontation between Palestinian police and Israeli soldiers.

With Arab and Israeli leaders digging themselves into mutually exclusive diplomatic positions, Clinton administration spokesmen attempted to lower expectations for the meeting here. They said they would consider the summit a success if it halted the drift toward further violence and renewed the political dialogue between the Israelis and the Palestinians.

"It's clear to me that the Middle East peace process is in a state of crisis," said Secretary of State Warren Christopher,

who has spent more time on the search for an Arab-Israeli peace settlement than any other single foreign policy issue. "You have to keep going forward."

State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said that US goals at the summit could be reduced to five words: "Meet, stop fighting, begin talking."

King Hussein arrived here Monday, and went directly to the White House to see Clinton. Netanyahu arrived later in the evening, while Arafat was due to fly in Tuesday morning after meeting with European foreign ministers in Luxembourg.

Arafat had earlier joined Mubarak in calling for a postponement of the talks until the weekend in order to bring international pressure to bear on Israel to close the tunnel beneath the edge of the sacred hill in Jerusalem known to Jews as the Temple Mount and to Arabs as Haram al-Sharif.

In contrast to most summit meetings, which are often elaborately choreographed, the Washington summit appears to be largely unscripted. US negotiators have some general ideas about the kind of compromise they would like to promote, including a redeployment of Israeli troops around Hebron and a return to the status quo in Jerusalem, but no firm commitments from either Netanyahu or

Arafat.

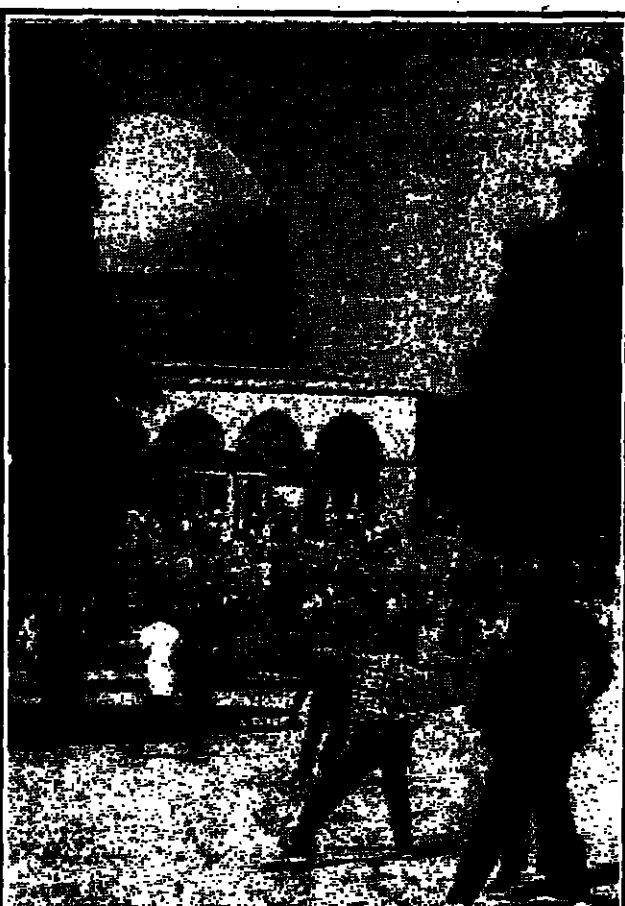
With the US presidential election only five weeks away, Clinton is under political pressure not to take any action that risks alienating pro-Israeli voters. Foreign policy advisers to Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole served notice Monday that they will vigorously oppose any attempt by Clinton to extract concessions from Israel.

"There should be no pressure on Israel to close the tunnel or take any other action as a concession to end the violence," said Richard Perle, former assistant secretary of defense under President Reagan, at a meeting with reporters at Dole campaign headquarters.

Aware of the domestic political risk in holding a summit with such murky prospects for success, Clinton's aides sought to turn the predicament to his advantage, arguing that Clinton deserved credit for bravery in calling the meeting.

"The president's interest is to do whatever he can to try to put the peace process back on track," said White House chief of staff Leon E. Panetta. "Does it involve political risk? You bet it involves political risks. But he believes that political risks ought to be taken in this

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● Palestinians throw stones at Israeli soldiers who stormed the Harem al Sharif on Friday. Death toll from four days of violent clashes climbed to 70 and 1500 were injured. Story on public reaction in Jordan on page 3.

Kuwait emerges as an Arab democracy—with a small 'd'

By John Daniszewski
LA Times-Washington Post News Service

KUWAIT CITY, Kuwait—On the illuminated boulevard that has been nicknamed "Democracy Street" in this oil emirate, Mohammed Rashid Hafid is packing in the crowds at tent meetings every Tuesday and Saturday night.

More than 1,000 men in white robes wait eagerly in the open air for more than an hour to hear this veteran politician turned politician and satirist—part Pat Paulsen, part Ross Perot. They hoot and guffaw as he lampoons puffed-up government officials, corrupt bureaucrats and the voters themselves in the final weeks before Kuwait's parliamentary elec-

tions, its second since it was liberated from Iraqi occupation in 1991.

"Please, give me your vote," he says. "I'm sorry, but I don't have enough money to buy it." Hafid is one of 248 candidates competing for 50 Parliament seats next Monday in a contest as vibrant and refreshing as it is rare for the region.

Kuwait has emerged as the Gulf's only democracy, and one of the few states in the Arab world that can make that claim. But like the other Arab democracies in the region—Egypt, Lebanon and Jordan—it is still democracy with an asterisk.

In the case of Kuwait, women cannot vote. Neither can a significant proportion of men because of restrictive citizenship laws and a ban on voting by

members of the army, police and parts of the civil service. Although criticizing the government and individuals in the royal family is OK—practically de rigueur, in fact—attacks directed at the emir, Sheikh Jaber al Ahmed al Sabah, are out of bounds.

Within those strictures, election fever has taken hold in this country of 1.7 million. Dozens of tent meetings for different hopefuls take place every night. Voters wander from one tent to another, getting face time with the candidates and grazing as they go.

Wealthy candidates host lavish free banquets: tables groan with roasted goats, salads and pastries, and fruit wagons overflow with apples, pears, dates and figs. Other hopefuls offer no more than a cup of sweet tea or iced water, served up with free-ranging opinions.

At those meetings, criticism that might earn a resident of a

neighboring state a visit from the police or a stay in jail hardly raises an eyebrow. Ministers are accused of embezzling, taking round-the-world junkets and neglecting official duties unless there are bribes involved.

In this society, "not speaking your mind would be an unnatural act," one Western diplomat said.

Many Kuwaitis express the view that their country is the testing ground for the Arab world.

"This small country could be a laboratory on how an Arabic, Islamic society could work in a framework of democracy," said Saif Abdullah, a professor of political science at Kuwait University.

Analysts say much of the current enthusiasm can be traced to Kuwait's recent history—its invasion by Iraq in 1990 and seven-month occupation until it

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LORIE'S WORLD



Netanyahu walks a fraying political line

By Barton Gellman
LA Times-Washington Post News Service

JERUSALEM—The street combat between Israelis and Palestinians over the past few days, in some ways the worst in the nearly 29 years since Israel conquered the West Bank and Gaza Strip, left an equally grave political crisis unresolved. And the man who had the most to decide, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, appeared profoundly unsure this week of what to do.

Far more swiftly than anyone predicted, just as he passed the hundred-day mark in power, Netanyahu has been confronted with the basic choice he straddled in his successful bid for office: to nurture Israel's partnership with the Palestinians, or watch it die.

Netanyahu won the premiership in May by promising to "make a secure peace" without the compromises to Palestinian nationhood that his Labor Party predecessors reluctantly planned. He was prepared to shake Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's hand, but not to inhibit his own drive for Jewish control of Arab-populated East Jerusalem and the four-fifths of the West Bank not yet subject to Palestinian self-rule. He allowed his top ministers to meet Arafat but ignored treaty deadlines obliging Israel to make concrete transfers of land and power.

This week's bloodshed—which ebbed Saturday, with only scattered incidents and no reported deaths—seems to demand a choice between the two rival story lines about Israelis and Palestinians that have divided Israeli politics since the 1967 Middle East war.

One—the one Netanyahu grew up with—holds that there

is no genuine peace partner among the Palestinians, no safe boundary for Israel short of the Jordan River and no answer to Arab uprising but an iron fist. The other is based on the exchange of land for peace and the possibility of separating two unhappily intertwined peoples into neighboring states.

Each story line offers an explanation for the violence that left 70 people dead in street fighting from southern Gaza to the northern West Bank, and each has a prescription for ending it. The choice

has paralyzed Netanyahu, who appears unprepared to discard his old core beliefs but unwilling to embrace the course of action they suggest. According to government sources, former generals Ariel Sharon and Rafael Eitan demanded in a cabinet meeting that lasted until 2 am Friday that Netanyahu dispatch tanks and Israel's full armed might to crush the uniformed Palestinian security forces who used their assault rifles to back rock-throwing demonstrations. Now

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Les territoires palestiniens ensanglantés page 16

Arafat's gains from clashes may be short-lived

By John Lancaster
LA Times-Washington Post News Service

GAZA CITY—At least for the moment, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat appears to have profited from last week's bloody clashes between Palestinians and Israeli troops. Israel is on the diplomatic defensive, President Clinton is offering his services as peacemaker, and Arafat is enjoying a surge of popularity with his own people after members of his security forces opened fire in support of Palestinian protesters last week in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

But the gains could be short-lived. Frustrated by the long stalemate in negotiations with Israel over the final shape of Palestinian self-rule, Palestinians will be watching with high hopes since Arafat accepted Clinton's invitation to the White House for a meeting with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu; Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who is still to announce his acceptance, and King Hussein.


At a minimum, they will be looking for Israeli concessions on specific issues, such as commitments to withdraw Israeli troops from the West Bank city of Hebron or close an archaeological tunnel, near Jerusalem's al-Aqsa Mosque, whose opening last week sent Palestinian rioters into the streets.

Anything less will cause Arafat to lose credibility with the Palestinians, who may be tempted to take their confrontation with Israel to a new and even more dangerous level. In the worst-case scenario, that could lead to Israeli military intervention inside Palestinian-controlled areas, triggering an all-out war and effectively scuttling the 1993 Oslo accord spelling out conditions for limited Palestinian self-rule.

"People will be disappointed, and they will look for a chance to rebel against the Israeli troops," said Hussam Khader, a former Palestinian guerrilla who serves in the Palestinians' elected legislature. "It will be a new uprising and a new type, an uprising not only with stones or Molotov (cocktails), but an uprising with guns. Even if we have limited quantities of guns and bullets, these could kill thousands of the Israeli people."

There are alternative scenarios, including one in which Arafat simply withdraws his security forces and allows crowds of Palestinians to confront Israeli soldiers on their own. But virtually all of them spell disaster for Arafat, who after decades as a guerrilla

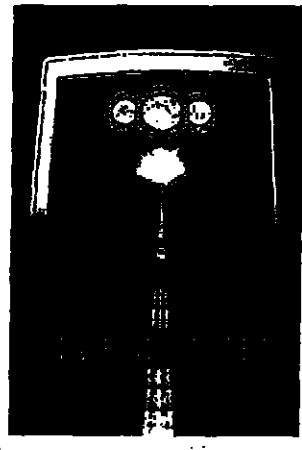
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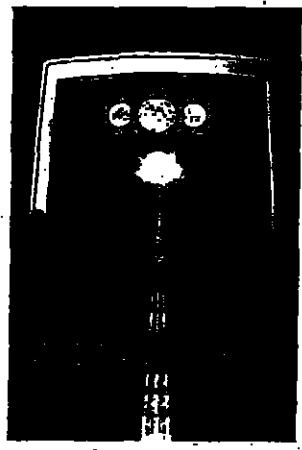
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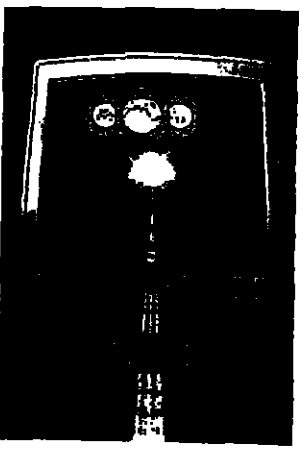
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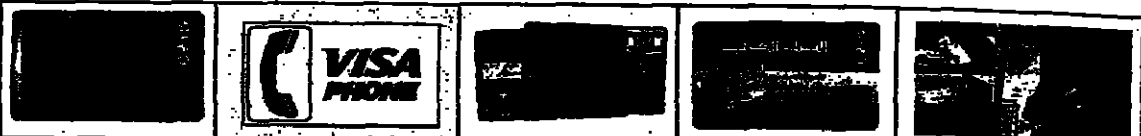
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Life on the streets

Children fight for survival

By Raed Al Abed
Star Staff Writer

FOR MANY Ammanites, the downtown area is a museum that is full of memories with its old markets, street corners and coffee shops. Its atmosphere brings them years back. Many still remember their younger days when they used to sell anything that would bring them money.

At that time, children's work was considered as socially unacceptable that was shunned by their families. However, although kids were not in need generally, they viewed selling as a manly behavior. Having fun was the main goal. Kids saved money, went to the coffee shop, had a *narghile* and watched an Egyptian or an Indian movie. But this is the glamorous side. There were those who were forced to work to help support their families.

But life has dramatically changed in Jordan since the late 1980s. There was no fun anymore. In downtown every face has a story to tell. The sheer will to survive was a common factor that underlined the tragedy of their existence. Young kids and elder people sell everything from chewing gum to matches and cigarettes.

They have their own rules, their own

world, and even their own characters, poor and smart, they are the brave hearts of today. They dream like everybody, but even their dreams depend on the weather, as the sky is their cover and earth is their mattress. Their food, they survive on bread and sometimes a bit of a *Kabab*.

In most cases working kids are victims of their own families and of their parents' troubles and divorce.

"If I had no bottle of spirits for my father when I return home, I would have to look for another place to sleep, usually on the streets," Maher, 14, a cigarette seller told *The Star*. Maher and his three younger brothers are living with their father, a tough unemployed alcoholic who is completely dependant on them. "He turns our home into hell, if we do not bring him his daily supply of food and drink," Maher said.

"For the past three days I could not return home, because I spent my money on a *Kabab* lunch and went to a movie. I know what will happen, I got used to being hit and kicked, but still I do not care."

The exhausted baby-like face of Maher shows serious bruises over his cheeks. "These bruises were because of a quarrel with other kids over a street corner," he said.

Maher's mother died of cancer four years ago. "My father was broken hearted. When my mother died he went crazy, he loved her very much."

With a bitter voice, Maher cursed his relatives as they refused to help his family. "I have rich uncles, they cheated my father and took all the inheritance of my grandfather. They are very greedy," he added. "I went to their houses... I begged them to help us, to save my brothers and father," all "kicked me out." With a sad smile but a pointed gaze he continued, "you know they have huge houses and beautiful gardens. I saw many cars there."

My cousins, Maher added "were sad about my situation, when I started screaming... I prevented myself from crying."

One wife of an uncle "offered me five dinars, she was nice. But I couldn't take it, despite the fact that it takes me two days of selling to raise such an amount."

The tragic situation of Maher forced

him to quit school. "last year I failed to pass, despite being a good student," he said.

Maher wanted to be a pilot, because he learned that a pilot could get free tickets for his family. "My mother dreamt of going around the world. But she died and left us in this dirty life."

If you are not smart enough and have a brave heart you wouldn't be able to survive on the streets, as many see it as a jungle.

Another kid leaning on a wall of a money exchange office and staring at pedestrians and trying to show a manly look, screamed and cursed at other kids that were only meters away from him.

He didn't want to "waste" his time with the press, as he has a "business to run." After a little persuasion, he started showing off his superiority in front of other kids. "I am the boss of four kids. I protect them for some money, keep them around me and I gave them goods to sell also," said Yahya, a 16 year-old. He has been moving from one street to another for the past four years.

"I am selling everything." What is everything? "Gum, cigarettes, second hand clothes, sweets and other foodstuffs. And other things." Do you sell illegal drugs or tablets?

He escaped the question and start yelling to potential customers. Then he turned his face and asked with a low voice: "Do you want some?"

"Do you use it?" "No I do not. I sell it only when my income that day was poor," Yahya said. He gets his stuff from "hoodlums" in downtown, but wouldn't say from where and from whom. He sells what is commonly called as "hallucination tablets"—a brand used by drug addicts. "I have regular customers, most of them are my friends," he said. Yahya served twice in the Usama Ben Zaid Rehabilitation Center in Zarqa for burglary. "In the center, I learned many experiences, I could adopt them, but I would hate to go to the center again."

He did not consider that the hallucination tablets that he sells as a crime. With a cool logic Yahya says "I need money, and I do not force people to buy them. It is not my problem if they are crazy."

He left school at the age of 10, when his

father passed away. He has two sisters, one of them is married, and three younger brothers.

His mother is working in a textile factory, she is getting JD 40 a month. Yahya makes about JD 70 a month. He is talking like older people, "sometimes, during the Eid festivals, I make more than JD 150. I give it all to my mother, to pay the house rent, JD 60 a month, and for other expenses," he added.

Yahya admitted that some of the older men try to exploit his situation and to force him into "dirty behavior," but he strongly resists all offers. "You have to be strong to live on the streets. I use to carry a knife at my waist. I used it several times. I never stabbed anybody, but it is to scare people."

In front of a chain of restaurants, opposite the Downtown Square, a little kid in smart clothes, sits in front of a weighing scale. "From one piaster you can weigh yourself," he calls to passersby.

"What does one piaster do in these days?" For the boy, it is a tactic. "Usually, people feel shy to pay one piaster, so they become generous with me, some pay 20 piasters, I save about JD 2 a day, some days I get only coins," Issa said. The 13-year old boy, is the fifth amongst five boys and girls. His two elder brothers, 14 and 15 year-olds, are also working in other "street-businesses."

His mother was divorced, and the children were left with the father who is a state



employee, and has a monthly salary of JD 170. "My father sent us to the streets, he told us that he can not handle our expenses," Issa said. "My brothers and I save about JD 7 a day, we give it to our father. He is mean and does not give us any filis."

Issa is the only son in school, and does his "business" after school. "The school is helping me, they give me all the needs, because I am good at my lessons."

But where is the social institutions, one might ask? The boys in downtown Amman have never heard about the Ministry of Social Development. The boys only worry about the raids carried out by the officials of the Greater Amman Municipality who come unexpectedly and throw their goods out into the street. ■

Netanyahu walks a fraying

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that the fighting is over, they and other Likud party hardliners such as Uzi Landau and Binyamin Begin are insisting that the Palestinian violence should have no reward—even if that means the collapse of the three-year effort to reach a negotiated peace.

"Look, there is a basic problem here," Netanyahu's director of policy planning and communication, David Bar Ilan, said in an interview. "Aside from the fact that the Palestine Authority is a dictatorial, corrupt society which is not likely to make real peace with a democracy, and that they still talk of liberating all of Palestine—despite all that, the minimum the Palestinians say they want, which is probably less than they ultimately want, is far more than the Israelis are able safely to give away."

Health Minister Tzahi Hanegbi, among the few Netanyahu allies in a cabinet full of rivals, said the bitterness of this week's events comes from "the casualties, but no less because of the forecasts we made when we were in the opposition. These forecasts are coming true before our very eyes. We cried out from the (parliament), in the squares and in the streets."

"Don't give them guns!"

And yet the implications of arguments like Bar Ilan's and Hanegbi's prove too much for Netanyahu to swallow. At least so far. They imply—or state outright—that peace talks with Arafat are a bust and it is time to let a bad idea die. Netanyahu cannot do that without destroying vital relationships with the outside world and the swing voters who put him in power.

"The thing with this guy," said political scientist Yaron Ezrahi, "is that he has... two (inclinations) which are not compatible. On the one hand he is genuinely not committed to the peace process, but on the other hand he is committed to be a political success. If you see that when you are derailing the peace process you are the object of contempt and pressure, how do you deal with that?"

A gifted practitioner of what Israelis call *hasbara*, a term that translates more or less as public relations, Netanyahu's first instinct has been to compensate for inaction with a gushing flow of fluent argument—rebutting the "wild and false incitement on the part of the Palestinian Authority," insisting that "peace is our deepest aspiration" and maintaining that there has been far more

progress in the talks to date than Arafat has been willing to admit.

Netanyahu is losing that argument with every audience he really cares about: the Clinton administration, the European powers he was wooing until forced to cut short his tour this week, his key Arab allies in Egypt and Jordan, and most of all the domestic voters who believed his promise to make peace "carefully, responsibly."

The outbreak of violence capped Netanyahu's first 100 days in office. Palestinians, their leaders, even Israel's top intelligence officers, attribute the trouble to Netanyahu's policies, saying his approach has hampered the peace process.

Netanyahu has shown no signs of backing off, giving more worry about the prospects for peace. Even as 20,000 people marched for peace at a Tel Aviv rally Saturday, a defiant Netanyahu vowed before an audience of Christian supporters never to close the disputed archaeological tunnel that lies near the Dome of the Rock, Islam's third-holiest shrine.

"The process of decision-making for the opening of the Hasmonian tunnel was short, incomplete and in the opinion of many, faulty," wrote Ze'ev Shiff, the military correspondent for *Ha'aretz*. "The astounding thing is that when the decision was made, it was well known in the prime minister's office that there was a possibility that it would result in violence and injuries."

The Jerusalem Post, the country's conservative English-language daily, supported Netanyahu's stance. But an editorial in Sunday's editions of the newspaper questioned Netanyahu's ability to work under those parameters.

"The signs after Netanyahu's first 100 days in office, it must be said, are not encouraging. Many of his decisions and statements during his first three months in office have proven flawed," the newspaper said. "The premier seems to have a tendency to set himself deadlines and goals that are either unattainable or simply self-defeating." ■

Hilmi Al Asmar freed

AMMAN (Star)—After eleven days of custody, Mr Mr Hilmi Al Asmar, the editor in chief of *Al Sabeel* weekly, was freed on bail. Al Asmar was arrested shortly after *Al Sabeel*, the mouthpiece of the Islamic movement in Jordan, reported that a Hamas sympathizer was allegedly tortured whilst in detention.

In his Monday meeting with the press, Dr Marwan Moasher, Minister of Information said that "Mr Al Asmar was released on bail," he confirmed that "Al Asmar will be formally charged and put into trial."

Early last week the government strongly denied *Al Sabeel*'s report considering as false. It accused the Executive Council of the Muslim Brotherhood of being behind the report published in *Al Sabeel*. ■

Kuwait emerges

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was liberated by allied forces.

Before the war, Kuwait had become a country run by and for the pampered, its citizens made rich by oil and coddled by hundreds of thousands of imported servants. But the trauma of the occupation, during which the country's property was looted and resistance was answered with summary executions, put a certain seriousness into Kuwaiti life.

Kuwaitis still cruise the country's six-lane highways in Caprices, Grand Cherokees and Suburbans, eat at McDonald's and Fuddrucker's and enjoy all the luxuries that a per capita national income roughly comparable to that of the United States can provide. But now they pay more attention to their civic duties.

Every Kuwaiti traveling abroad will board a plane to return home in time to vote next month, predicted journalist Hussein Abdul Rahman.

The closest Arab neighbors—Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the United Arab Emirates—are ruled by family dynasties. A few have appointed advisory councils, but none has an elected Parliament.

Recently, visitors from those countries have been coming to scope out Kuwait, said a diplomat specializing in political affairs. "They enjoy the spectacle, so different from their own systems," she said.

In a country where a married woman still cannot get a passport without her husband's permission, a dynamic women's suffrage movement is catching fire. Thousands of women and some men wear blue ribbons—they say the color represents harmony—to symbolize their message that nothing in the Koran forbids women from taking part in their own government.

When Lubna Abbas, a TV journalist, and Khaloud Feeli, with the Kuwait News Agency, urged that women join a work stoppage to demonstrate their commitment to attaining voting rights, they were astounded by the phone calls they received.

"We were..." Feeli said.

"Flooded," Abbas said.

Both women wear Western-style clothes and speak American-accented English, but they seem to have struck a chord even among heavily veiled Islamic women here.

"We are targeting people from the most conservative to the most liberal," Feeli said. "We want all women... to (be) aware not only of their political rights but their social rights too."

Neither has any hope that women will be allowed to vote this time, but they have set as their target the 2000 elections.

In seeking the vote, women must overcome resistance from the male Islamists in Parliament, who now hold half the seats. Abbas expects that number to drop after next week's election, but other observers are not so sure.

Kuwait's fundamentalists tend to be more moderate than religious conservatives else-

where in the region, and not as anti-American. They receive extensive state support and serve in the government.

Kuwait first had a Parliament in 1962, but its existence was tenuous at best. The emir suspended its meetings for all but four years after 1976.

After liberation, it was questionable whether the emir would submit to popular pressure to restore the legislature. "With US and allied coaxing, he did. Elections took place in 1992, and, despite some tense periods, the government, royal family and Parliament all seem to be co-existing."

Whatever the outcome, the legislature has demonstrated that Kuwait is an oasis of democracy.

"It has its ups and downs, but at least it has proved it is here to stay," said Abu Awad, 41, a voter at Hafait's tent meeting.

Kuwait's Arab neighbors envy him and his fellow citizens, he added: "They wish they could have it too." ■

Mideast summit opens

Continued from page 1

situation."

White House officials said that Clinton would play a prominent part in the summit, and has cleared his calendar to make himself available for much of Tuesday and Wednesday. King Hussein, Netanyahu, and Arafat are expected to have one-on-one meetings with the president in the Oval Office prior to a general plenary session later Tuesday.

The other key figures on the American side will be Christopher and the top Middle East negotiator at the State Department, Dennis Ross, who bore the brunt of the four days of "telephone shuttle diplomacy" that preceded the convening of the summit. The participants are expected to shuttle back and forth between the White House and Blair House, the guest house for distinguished foreign visitors, meeting in a variety of different formats.

US negotiators said that their key goal at the summit will be

to persuade Netanyahu and Arafat to recommit themselves to implementation of the September 1993 Washington agreement, which followed months of secret negotiations between Israelis and Palestinians in Oslo.

The agreement, which was signed in a Rose Garden ceremony between Arafat and former Israeli prime minister Yitzhak Rabin, provided for Palestinian self-rule on the West Bank and in the Gaza Strip.

Progress toward implementing the agreement slowed under the former Labor government, because of Israeli concerns about security in Hebron, where 400 Israeli settlers are sandwiched among tens of thousands of Arabs. It has virtually come to a halt since Netanyahu's victory in the July elections in Israel. The Israeli government has refused to redeploy its troops from Hebron and open final status talks on Jerusalem, despite the urging of the Clinton administration. ■

Arafat's gains from clashes

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leader has staked his credibility and prestige on making the peace process work.

"I think the most important thing he wants (out of the summit meeting) is to see progress on the implementation of the Oslo agreement," said Khalil Shikaki, a Columbia University-educated political scientist who directs the Center for Palestine Research and Studies in the West Bank city of Nablus. "He wants to see the Israelis move on Hebron and all the other issues. He needs some sort of change on the ground. Without implementation, I think he will look very foolish."

Shikaki warned that if Arafat comes back from Washington empty-handed, "the street will again feel frustrated and bitter, and it won't be long before we see the things we've been seeing for the last few days."

Ever since Arafat and then-Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin sealed the Oslo peace accord with their landmark handshake on the White House lawn in 1993, the Palestinian leader has walked a political tightrope. In the past, the gravest threat to Arafat's leadership came from the Islamic extremist group Hamas, whose opposition to the peace accord culminated in a series of suicide bombings in Israel in February and March that claimed 63 lives.

Hamas has since lost popularity among Palestinians, many of whom blame the group for inviting Israeli closures of Gaza and the West Bank that have kept tens of thousands from their jobs. But if the shunning of Hamas has eased one source of pressure on Arafat, the election of Netanyahu in May has added another.

Although he has pledged to abide by the terms of the Oslo accord, Netanyahu has yet to follow through on Israel's obligation to withdraw its troops from Hebron, rejected any notion of a Palestinian state, ruled out negotiations over the future of Jerusalem and announced the expansion of Jewish settlements in the West Bank.

From the Palestinian perspective, the only concession Netanyahu has made thus far is to meet with Arafat and shake his hand. "With Netanyahu, everything begins and ends with a meeting," Arafat complained in an interview published Sunday in the Israeli newspaper *Yediot Aharonot*.

"They have been reviewing the redeployment in Hebron for several months, and they are prepared to continue this review for several more months, and years," Arafat said. "But when it comes to everything that has to do with settlement, they learned everything with lightning-like speed."

Arafat made his comments after rejecting an Israeli proposal for a one-on-one meeting with Netanyahu at the Erez crossing from Israel into the Gaza Strip. But Arafat has looked more favorably on the proposed Washington summit, because he believes that Netanyahu will come under pressure from President Clinton to make a gesture to the Palestinians, analysts say. ■

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JORDAN

W E E K



An unconventional report on Jordanian news and views edited by Marwan Al Asmar



Ordinary session to be delayed till November

A Royal Decree was issued fixing the date of the next ordinary session of Parliament on 19 November. One of the major laws that are on the agenda is the reform of the electoral law. Minister of Information Dr Marwan Al Moasher said the government is presently preparing an electoral reform bill which it will present to the Lower House. However, he added that the government is in no hurry and is seeking all views and opinions in the country before its final presentation to Parliament. It is understood however, that the government will stick to the one man, one vote system.

Trad Al Qadi: Should I or Shouldn't I?

At first sight Trad Al Qadi, the Lower House deputy, was determined to quit politics. His position was very clear. He would never stand for Parliament, he told a press conference. The reasons for his resignation were admirable. He said that the Kabarti government has failed to satisfy the demands of his constituents in the Northern Badia. Unemployment remained high and there was no investment projects. And things were set to go, Al Qadi would have served the shortest time, having only been elected to Parliament last year. But no sooner the resignation letter was handed in to the Speaker of the Lower House, it was quickly withdrawn. It is argued that Al Qadi withdrew his resignation under intense popular pressure. At a meeting in Irbid, tribal elders convinced him to continue to serve as their member of Parliament. They appealed to him to "return to the parliamentary arena and join his brothers in these difficult situation that faces Jordan and the Arab world." It was rumored by *Al-Majid* weekly that Al Qadi was offered a post in the cabinet whenever there is a new government.



Al Qadi

Reaction to the other side

Jordanians from every sector of society supported their Palestinian brothers in what has been dubbed as their latest uprising. The latest spark that forced Palestinians to flare up was the opening of an Israeli tunnel under Al Aqsa Mosque, something that is seen as very disturbing. Jordanians, including the leadership, came out to condemn such an action. Women organizations protested outside the United Nations in Amman in front of the Palestinian embassy and the International Red Cross. Student demonstrations were held in the Universities of Jordan, Yarmouk and Mu'ta. In the University of Jordan, about 3000 students took part in a demonstration. Some lectures were cancelled and a number of professors joined in the demonstrators. At one stage, the Israeli flag was stepped on. A demonstration also was held in the University of Science and Technology in Irbid. But this is not all. The opposition deputies have come out in full strength and called for the recall of our ambassador in Tel Aviv. They also said that the Israeli ambassador in Amman must pack his things up and go.

Commutation of death sentence to 'Arab-Afghans'

The death sentence of the so-called "Arab Afghans" case has been commuted to life imprisonment by His Majesty King Hussein. The King's gesture came in a form of a Royal Decree. Eighteen people were tried, seven of these were given death sentences and 11 people were acquitted in the Arab-Afghan case which involved bombings and attempted bombings of cinema theaters showing X-rated movies and stores selling alcoholic drinks. Charges against the Arab Afghans involved attempts to destabilize the country. The commutation of the death sentences was made through an appeal by Dr Theib Abdallah, the former Islamic Action Front (IAF) Deputy and then head of the Lower House Public Liberties Committee (PLC). On another level, a special amnesty is expected. The current head of the PLC, IAF deputy Basam Al Ummouh has drawn up a list of 40 names that could be freed in a special amnesty. These do both include people who were convicted of murder.

Rose Al Yosef denied entry

The Egyptian famous weekly *Rose Al Yosef* is still being denied into the country. Although, there has been no official comment, the weekly magazine has not been seen in the newsstands. Vendors have said that the magazine has not been available for the last three weeks.

Buildings collapsing

An interesting piece of news was reported last week in *Al Bilad*. Everything is collapsing so to speak or is it. Well, some engineers say that an increasing number of buildings and construction works are collapsing after they have been completed. They point to the problems surrounding the Jerash and the Aqaba highways. In addition, a slaughter house that was built in Qataneh has recently collapsed. What the engineers want is to reopen the files of such cases and punish the culprits for their misdeeds, if any is found. It is hard to say what they will do or can do, but this should be seen as a step in the right direction. But, at least now, the car is out of the bag. Engineering offices, or some of them, will have to tread carefully and start providing a customer service that is up to specification.

Jerusalem conference in Amman

The 7th Annual Seminar on Jerusalem is being held between 5-8 October at the Royal Cultural Center. Organized by the Jerusalem Committee, it is titled "Arab Permanent Rights in Jerusalem." The timing of this conference is crucial because it comes at a time of a vicious Israeli onslaught in this holy city. That is why the papers in this conference which are submitted by distinguished academics concentrate on the Arab character of Jerusalem and its Islamic identity. Experts are coming from Yemen, Iraq, Syria and Egypt and the Jerusalem Open University.



His Majesty King Hussein chairs a cabinet meeting at the Prime Ministry, Sunday. He said that Jordan rejects a one-sided approach to the issue of the sovereignty of Jerusalem and said that it was not in the interest of peace or of the area. He said that sovereignty wasn't an issue for compromise, but that Jordan and the Palestinians should increase their understanding and coordination on the Jerusalem issue.

Intifada II brings Jerusalem on the spot Israeli de facto policies spark Jordanian anger

AMMAN (Star)—Jordanians at large and representatives of all shades of the political spectrum expressed their frustration and anger at the recent events in Jerusalem and the Occupied Territories. There was agreement that Israel's hardline Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu had crossed a dangerous threshold earlier this week by opening a controversial tunnel under the walls of Al Aqsa mosque. That incident set off clashes between Israeli forces and the Palestinian "people" including Palestinian police, which so far has killed at least 70 Palestinians and injured about 1500.

The government on Monday lodged a strong protest with Israel reaffirming Jordan's rejection of the Israeli moves to impose a de facto policy over Arab East Jerusalem, said Dr Marwan Moasher, the minister of information, in his Monday meeting with the press.

Prime Minister, Abdel Karim Al Kabarti summoned the Israeli Ambassador in Amman and expressed the Jordanian position.

The Prime Minister informed the ambassador of Jordan's demand that Israel should respect not only all agreements signed but also the Jordan-Israeli peace treaty, Moasher added.

Under the peace treaty, signed in October 1994, Israel acknowledged Jordan's special role in 'Arab East Jerusalem.' As such, Jordan expected Israel to inform the Kingdom in advance of any planned measures related to the holy sites such as last week's reopening of a tunnel that runs along Al Aqsa Mosque.

Opposition parties escalated their campaign calling for the abrogation of peace treaties with Israel as a reaction to Israeli provocations.

However, the authorities took precautionary measures to avoid emotional reactions that could lead to public disturbances. Public Security forces were put on a "temporary state of emergency," sources said. Armed policemen were patrolling streets particularly in places close to big mosques, populated areas and refugee camps.

Last Friday, the security forces banned many attempts to organize protests against the peace process and normalizing relations with Israel.

Leaders of opposition parties asked the Ministry of Interior to permit them to march peacefully to protest Israeli violence, but no response was received.

Despite strict security measures, many speakers in main mosques strongly attacked Israel's repressive policies. A number of speakers who are close to the Islamic Action Front (IAF) in Amman and Zarqa called for Jihad to defend Al Aqsa Mosque, which the Israeli occupation troops raided on Friday and shot at



unarmed civilians attending the prayers, leaving five dead and dozens injured.

In a strongly-worded statement the Lower House rejected the latest Israeli measures in Jerusalem. Such measures "threatened the holy Aqsa Mosque and all the other holy places in Jerusalem," the statement said. The House considered the latest developments as bringing "clear doubts on the peace process in the region."

It said that "the Israeli government is harming all international efforts aiming at achieving peace which is based on justice and on the principle of land for peace."

A number of opposition parties pointed out that the Jordanian public is ready to "renew against the peace process."

They also hammered officials of Jordan Television against what they described as "the poor coverage of events in occupied Palestine in the official media."

Earlier, many opposition figures accused the official Jordanian television of flattery Israeli government and ignoring the feelings of

Muslims, referring to poor coverage of the latest developments at Al Aqsa Mosque. The public is also angry at the Jordanian official stance, the opposition said.

A statement released by the 11-party opposition bloc called upon Arab countries to "use all kind of pressures on Israel." In a statement released early this week, the parties demanded the Jordanian government "to withdraw the Jordanian ambassador in Israel, and to drive out the Israeli ambassador from Amman."

The parties hailed the Intifada of the Palestinian people in Palestine and saluted the participation of its leaders who confronted Israel's repressive practices.

They called upon the Jordanian public to provide full support and consolidation to the Palestinian people in their new intifada against the Israeli occupation.

The higher leadership of uniting the parties of Unionists (Waddawion), Al-Jamahir, and the Progressive and Justice—centrist parties—also issued a strong statement condemning Israeli practices against the Palestinian people and against the peace process in general.

The opening of the tunnel is an affront to all religious and human principles," the statement said. Through these practices, the statement said, Israel is "disavowing itself from all international agreements and bilateral peace treaties."

Christian organizations in Jordan also decried the Israeli measures against Palestinians. The World Council of Churches (WCC), said "we view with caution and great dismay the clashes in Jerusalem and elsewhere in the West Bank and Gaza Strip."

The deep frustrations of "the Palestinian people who face the occupation of their lands, confiscation of properties, demolition of houses, restriction of movements and economic disaster is understandable," WCC added.

The Episcopal Church of Jerusalem and the Middle East also issued a statement expressing solidarity with the Palestinian people and demanding an end to the Israel's massacres of the Palestinians.



After school: With heavy satchels on their back, kids sit on the pavement in downtown Amman and contemplate their next move. Home is the likely place to go!

Photo by Fouad Jbour

Prince Hassan says custodianship over Holy Places is held trust

AMMAN (Petra)—Noting Jordan's historic role in defending the shrines in Arab East Jerusalem, the Regent said the Kingdom was not competing with anyone for the custodianship of the holy places, the Kingdom considers the custodianship as being held in trust "until such time it could be returned to the Arab and Islamic fold of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA)," he said. The Regent said "I would like to reiterate what His Majesty has already emphasised regarding Jordan's role in safeguarding the holy shrines in Jerusalem that this role is part of Jordan's religious and historical duties acknowledged by international law. Such a duty is reaffirmed by Jordan's deep sense of belonging to the Arab and Islamic world." The Crown Prince stressed that Jerusalem was the spiritual dimension of the Arab-Israeli struggle in as much as the refugee issue represents the human dimension of the struggle.



Jordan's role in protecting the Islamic holy shrines in Jerusalem is part of the Kingdom's religious and historic duties as acknowledged by international law and is reaffirmed by its deep sense of belonging to the Arab and Islamic world, the Regent, said Monday.

Prince Hassan, who held an open discussion at King Abdullah Mosque after Maghreb prayers, condemned the Israeli moves in the holy city, particularly the opening of a controversial tunnel along the Al Aqsa Mosque compound. The Crown Prince, who discussed several issues during the debate but focused particularly on the situation in Arab East Jerusalem, refuted allegations that Jordanian Aqwa Authorities in the holy city had prior knowledge of Israel's plan to reopen the tunnel. "Such allegations are fabricated and baseless," he said, expressing surprise over such suggestions.

Muslim Brotherhood Defiant but lenient

AMMAN (Star)—The recent press conference by the Muslim Brotherhood is being viewed with mixed reactions by analysts in Jordan. Their total condemnation of Israeli actions on the West Bank and Jerusalem does strike a chord with the government's view. Prime Minister Abdel Al Karim Al Kabarti's summoning of the Israeli ambassador in Amman to explain Jordan's position on the Israeli action on the tunnel issue under Al Aqsa Mosque does seem to strike a chord of unanimity between the opposition and the government.

After all, both see it as a threat to the Islamic holy places. The government says that such a step would both undermine the peace process and Jordan's special role as the custodian of the holy places. For the opposition, the Israeli action is a further vindication that Israel does not want peace and it is hell bent on Judaizing Jerusalem.

The Muslim Brotherhood go further than this and argue that the mass reaction among the Palestinians that the opening of the tunnel have created is a "courageous step by the Palestinian people as expressed in their piety and eagerness to protect Jerusalem and the holy places." Further, what happened last week in terms of the shooting of innocent civilians is a further proof of "Zionist" oppressive policies which they have been carrying out against the Palestinian people. In this respect, the Oslo accords are seen but a sham, they argue.

The Brotherhood pointed out that "we believe that the tunnel under the Al Aqsa Mosque is but a part of a grand design to destroy the mosque and to resurrect the so-called Temple Mount." Further, they add, "it is to quash the Arab and Islamic character in Jerusalem and Palestine. The statement argued that the Oslo, Cairo and Wadi Araba agreements are but further steps to help the enemy to achieve the "Greater Israel" project.

These are strong words indeed, for the Muslim Brotherhood also called on the Palestinian National Authority to free all prisoners including Hamas and Islamic Jihad activists.

But the press conference was different in other ways. While they refused to compromise their hardline stance about the resignation of the Al Kabarti government, they said that they would not rule out the possibility of joining a future government. Its Overseer, Mr Abdel Majeed Thunibat said that, the brotherhood "would have to see the agenda of the next government before they make a decision."

Observers point out that the abrogation of the Jordan-Israeli treaty would not be a condition for their participation in the next government if they do participate. However, Thunibat denied that. He said "the abrogation of the treaty is part of our strategy."

Edward de Bono's visits Jordan

THE WORLDWIDE thinker, writer and consultant Dr. Edward de Bono, will visit Jordan next week in order to conduct a seminar for Jordanian Businessmen in "Lateral Thinking" a concept that he created and now has an official entry in the Oxford English Dictionary, and which he himself teaches this concept by doing seminars worldwide for all ages and nationalities.

Many international corporations attribute their success to the direct use of lateral thinking.

Dr. de Bono had written more than 53 books, about this subject and other subjects involves the mind and the way it functions. In addition he designed the CORT thinking program which is widely used for the direct teaching of thinking in schools, and it is being introduced mandatory into schools in some countries.

Dr. de Bono has been invited to lecture in 45 countries, and in 1989 he organized and chaired a meeting of Nobel Prizes winners in Seoul/Korea.

This visit, as says his representatives in Jordan Ms. Dima Faifi, is considered a unique and successful experience to all businessmen attending the seminar next week in cooperation with Amman World Trade Center.

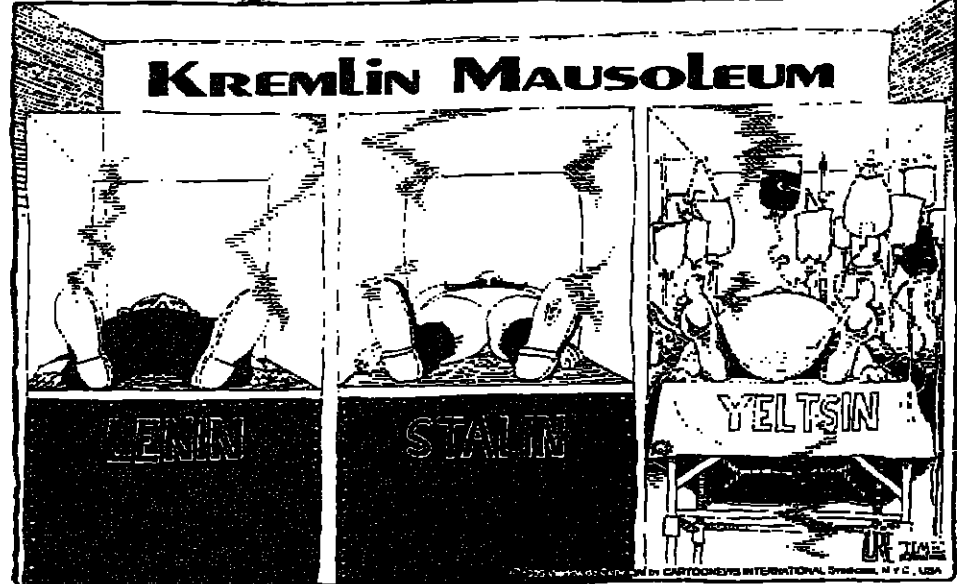
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LURIE'S WORLD



Our Say...

Peace in danger despite summit

THE CONVENING Tuesday of an emergency summit in Washington at the request of President Clinton to rescue an embattled Middle East peace process could be viewed as a futile act of desperation. The summit, to be attended by His Majesty King Hussein, Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, has no specific agenda other than to reactivate the political process and reduce the level of tension in the Occupied Territories.

Such a broad goal can hardly be achieved without going into specifics. At the heart of the stalemated peace process is the Palestinian-Israeli track which has been bogged down ever since Mr Netanyahu was elected to office last May. From that point on, the peace process has been facing rough weather on all fronts, and the cherished goal of establishing peace through the implementation of agreements reached after long and arduous negotiations appeared to be lost.

Mr Netanyahu's platform was clear from day one; and had lived up to his ideals. He has virtually buried the peace process under a mound of activities that contravened everything the peacemakers have been working on for years; unleashing a fresh wave of new settlements, expropriating Palestinian lands and threatening the Arab and Muslim identity of occupied East Jerusalem by creating new realities on the ground.

These policies, pursued with vigor by Mr Netanyahu, meant that the goals agreed upon by the Palestinians in Madrid, Oslo, Taba and Washington were being compromised almost overnight. While Netanyahu paid lip service to the cause of peace, his actions clearly were aimed at stripping the Palestinians from every single gain they have managed to acquire through peaceful negotiations.

So their angry reaction last week was predictable, although it appeared to have taken Mr Netanyahu by surprise.

The Washington meeting cannot succeed if the peace process loses its credibility. The Palestinians cannot be expected to yield to Israel's demands that the signed and sealed agreements be reopened for fresh negotiations. No one can expect the Palestinians to become the target of pressure and give up what they managed to achieve after long and hard process of negotiations.

Mr Netanyahu must understand that his vision of the future of the Occupied Territories, Jerusalem and the Golan Heights is the antithesis of the principles of a just peace in the region based on the formula of land for peace and the foundations of the Madrid peace conference.

Regardless of Mr Clinton's domestic calculations, he must not give Mr Netanyahu the chance to assassinate the peace process. America's credibility in the region is already at stake. Even Israel's interests will not be served if the six-year-old peace process is reversed. That's why the measure of the success or failure of the Washington summit will be Israel's renewed commitment to implement its agreements with the Palestinians. Other than that will mean more violence and killing—dispatching the region once more into the darkness of uncertainty. ■

S. Africa, Sweden to probe accusation in Palme death

By Bob Drogin and Mary Williams Walsh
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa—With his buck teeth and giant grin, Craig Williamson was described in a newspaper here last year as having the "amiable appearance of an overweight Bugs Bunny."

But his long career as a secret agent for the apartheid regime was no joke. He has admitted to bombings that killed two women and a young girl in London, Angola and Mozambique, and to running covert operations to spread disinformation and collect intelligence in Washington and elsewhere.

The question now is whether Williamson, 47, also had a hand in the 1986 assassination of Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme in Stockholm, as alleged by Eugene de Kock, Williamson's former friend and fellow assassin in the South African security police. Friday, de Kock told a court in Pretoria, South Africa's administrative capital, that he

was given "firsthand information" in 1992 or 1993 of Williamson's supposed role in the still-unresolved slaying of the popular Swedish leader. He did not elaborate.

De Kock first implicated Williamson last Thursday, again without providing any details, while testifying to seek leniency for six murders and scores of other crimes he has been convicted of committing as head of a police death squad. He said Friday that he had not mentioned the assassination earlier because he had forgotten it.

But South African and Swedish authorities said they plan to investigate de Kock's information to see if it is reliable. Investigators and prosecutors from the two countries will meet next week to discuss procedures.

"We're taking it very seriously," said Charlotte Wrangberg, a diplomat at the Swedish Embassy in Pretoria. "The police say there might be some new elements."

She said the embassy had requested a transcript of de Kock's courtroom comments and any related evidence he has privately given to prosecutors. She said police in Stockholm may send detectives to interview him. ■

A view from Japan

Political Islam, pluralism denied

By Ryoji Tateyama

SINCE THE Iranian Revolution, Japan's policies toward Iran have grown more complex. Japan has come to see its relationship with Iran quite differently than the US views its own relationship with the Islamic nation: Iran is seen largely as an enemy in the United States. This has caused considerable friction between Japan and the United States: Japan's decision last year to provide Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) to Iran for the first time since the Iranian Revolution was one major source of agitation. The assistance took the form of a 38.6 billion yen loan for a dam construction project. Final approval for the ODA took over two years: Japanese government officials said that tremendous energy was devoted toward winning over the US government and Congress regarding this loan during those two years.

Yet the United States remains unconvinced of the merits of strengthening ties with Iran. Anthony Lake, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, criticized the reconciliatory approach toward Iran taken by countries like Japan.

The awkward relationship between the United States and Japan over Iran is a manifestation of each country's views on "Islamic fundamentalism." I use quotation marks because the expression is often associated with clichéd images

meant to invoke certain preconceived ideas. The current trend in the Islamic world is to place more emphasis on "Islamic values" and to promote the revival of Islam in its original sense. Islamic fundamentalism is a much more complex set of beliefs than the media would have us imagine—it seems, unfortunately, to be irretrievably linked in the minds of many to images of terrorism and extremists.

Modern Islam embraces a wide range of phenomena, including a marked increase in Friday mosque worship and the spread of Islamic banks that do not charge interest. These trends have been called the "awakening of Islam." Because Islam is concerned with the ideal layout of society as a whole, as well as individual lifestyles, the "awakening of Islam" naturally includes political advocacy and activities. Here it is necessary to recognize that current events in the Islamic world involve an expansive range of phenomena: the political aspects are but a part. But because this paper focuses principally on these political aspects, the expression "political Islam" will be used to convey them. Claims are often made in the non-Islamic world (including Europe, the United States, and Japan) that political Islam is extreme, and engages in or supports terrorism. Two favorite targets are the present Iranian regime (dealt with below) and the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) in Algeria, where the situation is highly complex. Though the FIS began its armed struggle after being outlawed by the Algerian military regime at the beginning of 1992—when the results of the first national election were declared invalid—it is questionable whether the group has been involved in terrorism since its inception.

Not surprisingly, many outlawed and suppressed political organizations end up resorting to violence. In Algeria, an armed Islamic group (GIS)—which appears to have splintered off from FIS—is engaged in nondiscriminatory terrorism, including some against foreigners. The FIS has often and publicly criticized such nondiscriminatory terrorism.

Other Islamic groups often appearing in the press are those in Afghanistan and Lebanon. Political terrorism in these countries has emerged through the process of expanding and aggravating civil wars, each lasting nearly 20 years. Clearly, terrorism was not part of the origins of either war. In Lebanon, it was only after the Israeli invasion in 1982 that armed Islamic groups such as Amal and Hezbollah became main players in the war. Prior to the invasion, the main fighting groups were Maronite Christians or groups based on secular ideologies such as Arab nationalism or Marxist-Leninism.

There are also claims that political Islam must be contained, since its goals are antithetical to democracy. The variety of views and claims regarding the coexistence of Islam and democracy have prompted lively debates. Activists and theorists of political Islam have expressed a full range of opinions on how to create a parliamentary democracy. Non-Islamic observers argue that Islam and democracy are inherently incompatible. The relationship between the state and civil society is often brought into the debate. State Islam, they say, oppresses civil society, which could not possibly develop under such conditions: democracy, in turn, cannot thrive without a civil society. The counterargument for this is that, on the contrary, the Islamic world does not allow the establishment of a stable state. A healthy relationship between the state and civil society is therefore not possible.

An underlying assumption of the proponents of incompatibility appears to be the "Westernized" concept of democracy. It assumes that political Islam—and its inherent opposition to "Western values"—will never accept democratic norms. Similar views were presented at a symposium entitled "Resurgent Islam in the Middle East," sponsored by the Middle East Policy Council and held in Washington DC in May 1994. Robert H. Pelletreau, Jr., US Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, acknowledges that "we, as a government, have no quarrel with Islam," but goes on to state that "certain manifestations of the Islamic revival are intensely anti-Western. They aim not only at elimination of Western influences, but at resisting any form of cooperation with the West." He concludes that "such tendencies are clearly hostile to US interests."

Pelletreau's conclusion is not too convincing. It is undeniable that many of the ideas of democracy, modern systems of society, economy, and politics were created in the West. However (as I address later), not all democratic or modern roads lead to the West. Modernization has progressed for well over a century in Asia—including Japan—and a democratic political system is firmly in place. However, the process of modernization and democratization was not necessarily Western in nature. Today of course, Japan can be described on several levels as being fairly Westernized. However, most norms that make up the fundamentals of Japanese society are inherently "Japanese." A fair amount of these norms are even blatantly anti-Western. Clearly, we cannot conclude that the existence of Japanese society is "hostile to US interests."

Yet the views of Pelletreau, a senior official of the US Department of State, look positively moderate compared with those of Daniel Pipes, editor of the *Middle East Quarterly*. According to Pipes, while fundamentalist groups and ideologies differ from each other in many ways, all of them are inherently extremist and all despise our civilization. They despise us not for what we do but for who we are. By definition, fundamentalists seek a way of life deeply incompatible with our own ideals.

pointed out, this double containment policy ignores the basic dynamics of power in the Arabian Gulf. There are three poles of power in the Gulf area: Iran, Iraq and Saudi Arabia. Saudi Arabia is clearly the weakest of the poles. Surrounding nations, including Turkey and other members of the GCC, maintain relations with Iran on a variety of levels even while continuing to perceive an Iranian threat. Even Egypt, one of the harshest critics of Iran (it used to maintain that "Iran is behind the terrorism of Islamic Fundamentalists") is ready to restore relations with Iran. Last September the foreign ministers of Iran and Egypt talked to each other during the UN General Assembly, and agreed to expand economic ties and other relations. During the height of Egypt's campaign against Iran and Sudan, two Egyptian journalists I encountered declared that the Egyptian government was merely attempting to divert attention from domestic problems to outside the country. The Egyptian people, it seems, were not convinced by the government's "anti-Iran" campaign.

Samuel Huntington, in his famous *Foreign Affairs* essay *The Clash of Civilizations*, wrote that ideas such as human rights, equality, freedom, the rule of law, democracy, free markets, and the separation of church and state are essentially Western in origin; they are not necessarily widely accepted in Islamic, Confucian, Japanese, Hindu, Buddhist, or Eastern Orthodox civilizations. It is true that these ideas were mainly developed in the West.

But as Mr Huntington must know, ideas like these—so deeply related to human existence—are not the exclusive property of the West. Each culture has developed its own forms of these ideas within its individual historical

Therefore, the US government ought in principle not to cooperate with fundamentalists, not encourage them, and not engage in dialogue with them. He goes on to say that Fundamentalists feel the strength that comes from being part of a surging international network, somewhat like Marxist-Leninists must have felt in the 1950s. This new network, like that old one, has the United States of America in its sights.

The reality is actually closer to the opposite. Not only did no international network of Marxist-Leninists exist in the 1950s, no international network of political Islam exists today. Pipes' claims only demonstrate that what we can call "Islamism" is being fabricated as a new "enemy" in America's post-Cold War world. Such remarks cannot be regarded as anything but political propaganda.

Islamist-like ideas appear to form the basis for the Clinton Administration policy of "double containment," or the attempt to contain both Iran and Iraq simultaneously. Once again, let us go back to the paper of Anthony Lake, originally published in *Foreign Affairs*. Lake lists the following reasons for containment of Iran. In Lake's view, Iran is:

- Pursuing extreme military expansion
- Sponsoring terrorism and murder
- Opposing the process of Middle East peace

■ Ignoring human rights
It is true that the human rights situation in Iran is horrific, and Iran is clearly against the peace process going on in the Middle East. But no clear evidence of Iran being a sponsor of terrorism has been identified. Moreover, the claim that Iran is pursuing drastic military expansion is not too convincing when we consider that, according to the figures provided by the International Institute for Strategic Studies in London, the total 1992 defense budget of the six Arab nations comprising the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) was \$28.2 billion (the figure for Qatar is from 1991): more than 15 times Iran's \$1.8 billion. Military expenditures in 1991, including arms purchases, are estimated at \$5.8 billion for Iran (the 1992 figure for Saudi Arabia amounted to \$35 billion, more than six times that of Iran). It is only natural that Iran would become concerned about the rapid military expansion of the GCC nations.

Immediately following the Gulf War, the need for arms control in the Middle East became a hot topic. President Bush even went so far as to announce an arms control plan.

In reality, however, the arms situation is regressing. The Congressional Research Service of the US Library of Congress reports that the United States provided \$14.8 billion in arms transfers to the third world in 1993. This amounts to 73 percent of the world total of arms transfer to third world countries. Furthermore, 80 percent of the \$14.8 billion, or \$11.7 billion, consists of arms sales to Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. After selling these vast amounts of arms, the United States turns a blind eye to human rights abuses and democratization problems in these two countries. Selling a large amount of arms to the Saudis and the Kuwaitis will only spur the military expansion of Iran; it will also force Iraq to rebuild its military capabilities after UN sanctions against it are lifted.

As many critics have

context. In this sense, to argue that the Islamic and Arab worlds will never develop the ideas of human rights, democracy, or the rule of law, is absolutism of the worst kind. Historical viewpoint is virtually absent in such an argument. It is, I believe, what Yahya Sadowski has called "the new Orientalism." Most of those regions have been victims of colonialism and imperialism since the 19th century, and have long been subjected to the rules of Europeans. Struggles for securing rights were, therefore, necessarily aimed at outside rulers. Although most nations in the Arab and Islamic worlds achieved independence after World War II, the outward-targeted struggle—the attempt to limit the influences from the British, French, and later the United States and the former Soviet Union to a minimum—continued even after independence. Further, as numerous wars in the region have made clear, the borders established at the time of independence were highly arbitrary. The foreign-drawn borders totally ignored important ethnic and religious factors. Under such circumstances, Arab and Islamic countries had to give their priorities to the maintenance of domestic unity. As a result, an authoritarian political system was created to foster anti-Western thoughts and ideology. The same can be said of many nations in Asia.

None of this precludes the possibility that Arab and Islamic countries will develop ideas of democracy and human rights over the long run. That does not, however, imply Westernization. Judith Miller, in discussing the Middle East, is excessively pessimistic in her belief that "the notions of plurality, self-criticism and disagreement—all essential features of liberal democracy—face an uphill, though not impossible, battle in winning widespread cultural acceptance." However, even in the West, present norms were not institutionalized overnight—centuries of political struggle were necessary before such concepts became firmly grounded.

Political Islam, too, is trying to create political and social systems rooted in its inherent cultures and histories. Ignoring these efforts and generally regarding political Islam as an enemy may well lead to the denial of pluralism. This approach has little to gain and much to lose: it closes the possibility of the coexistence of various cultures. ■

Ryoji Tateyama is Chief Economist at The Japanese Institute of Middle Eastern Economies.

Middle East Beat by Khairi Janbek Jerusalem; Where to?

JERUSALEM. THE city of peace and coexistence has become the city of discord and enmity. In the middle of flying stones, and countless funerals, to seek rhyme and reason equates superhuman efforts. Nevertheless, it is most important to avoid the accumulation of mistakes in order to avoid future tragedies.

As far as one can understand, the facts on the ground, regarding the tunnel of the western wall, are still unclear from a scientific-archaeological point of view. On the political level it is unclear to what extent there has been any communication, if any, between the PNA appointed religious authorities, and the Israeli occupation authority regarding this issue.

One thing remains for sure, that neither Jordan nor UNESCO had any information regarding the re-opening of the entrance to the tunnel. Why Jordan? Simply because under international law, it is the side which is accepted as the official custodian of the holy shrines, and that is of course, when international law is taken in its totality, and not interpreted selectively according to the whims of individuals, as and when it suits them. As for UNESCO, its role as the protector of Jerusalem, as a holy and historic city, gives it an important say if archaeological changes are about to be instituted.

It is probably true, that the tunnel issue was the final straw for the Palestinian people, rather than the main instigator of the recent violence. Israeli intransigence, and PNA war threats have all contributed to balanced approach towards confrontation. The stalling in the peace process, the lack of implementation of the signed agreements, and the continued building of settlements are like a red cloth to a bull, in as much as the earlier euphoric declaration of Mr Arafat as he was entering Gaza, of wanting Jerusalem to be the capital of Palestine.

Mr Arafat demands Arab solidarity and an Arab united solution to the Palestinian problem, voicing his appeal to the USA. Mr Netanyahu wants a more involved American support, and that's why he is seeking Arab help to end the troubles in the West Bank. Neither is talking legitimacy and international agreements. They are looking towards Egypt for an honest broker, and need Jordan for its pivotal role. Jordan wishes to develop its peace relations with Israel, but also supports the legitimate aspirations of the Palestinians to exercise their sovereignty over their territory, and Jordan most emphatically does not compete and will not compete with any party over the question of custodianship of the holy shrines.

The recent sad events have indicated very bluntly, that Jordanian fears for the future of the holy sites are justified. If the internecine quarrel does not stop over Jerusalem, then the future of the holy city will not be even worth mentioning. If a vacuum is created, the Muslims and Christians of the world will have to in the future earn visiting rights to the holy shrines. The issue of custodianship is neither a prestige nor a political manoeuvre. It is an awesome responsibility, and an historic legitimacy that transcends the temporal domain of ruling. Jordan condemns any unilateral act by any party, that attempts to change the character of the holy city under any pretext and create an *ipso facto* condition, that cannot be changed, especially when negotiations over the final status of Jerusalem have not even started. ■

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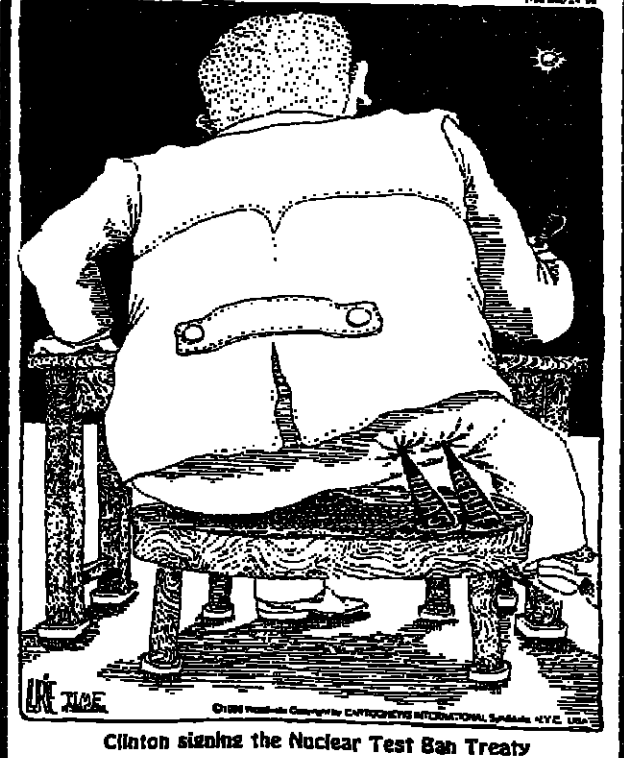
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LURIE'S WORLD



Clinton signs the Nuclear Test Ban Treaty

Business Chronicle

هكذا من الأصل

Modern living in Libya

On the other hand, the sanctions do not prevent Libya from selling oil, which it has in abundance. With a per capita income of about \$7,000—10 times that of neighboring Egypt—Libya is, by regional standards, a relatively wealthy country

By John Lancaster
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

TRIPOLI, Libya—The other day, visiting foreign journalists were invited to the opening of a hospital here. It was a festive affair, with waiters serving passion-fruit juice and an appearance by Libya's eccentric leader, Col. Muammar Qaddafi, who dressed as a doctor for the occasion. A camel was slaughtered for good luck.

But the real attention-grabber was the hospital. The lobby was as elegant as that of a five-star hotel, with marble floors and sumptuous leather armchairs. There were beds for 1,400 patients, state-of-the-art German-made CAT scanners—even a test-tube-baby clinic. Parked outside was a shiny white helicopter ambulance.

It was, in short, not what one would expect in a North African "pariah state" whose main reputation in the West stems from its alleged links to international terrorism and, in particular, its refusal to hand over two suspects in the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am jetliner over Lockerbie, Scotland.

A recent two-day visit to Libya included many such surprises. From the CNN broadcasts on the hotel television set to flying on an Air Libya Boeing 727 that somehow remained aloft despite UN sanctions, stemming from the Lockerbie incident, that ban sales of aircraft parts to Libya. I heard my first—and, I hope, last—Libyan reggae band.

In other words, as pariah states go, it wasn't that bad.

To be sure, these are superficial impressions. I visited Libya under highly artificial

circumstances, as one of about 50 foreign journalists invited by the government to witness celebrations of the 27th anniversary of the military coup that brought Qaddafi to power. Our hosts barred us from roaming the city without an escort and filled our schedule with stage-managed events like the awards ceremony for Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan, this year's recipient of the coveted Gadhafi International Human Rights Prize.

Nor is Libya a prime holiday spot, unless you like states that combine strict Islamic law with the dreariness of Ceausescu's Romania. And it is abundantly clear that Libya's pariah status has caused its own share of headaches. Because the sanctions bar international air service to Libya, our journey began with a grueling 16-hour bus ride from Cairo to Tobruk, across the border from Egypt on Libya's Mediterranean coast. There we caught a domestic flight for the last leg to the capital.

On the other hand, the sanctions do not prevent Libya from selling oil, which it has in abundance. With a per capita income of about \$7,000—10 times that of neighboring Egypt—Libya is, by regional standards, a relatively wealthy country.

At the hospital, for instance, I fell into conversation with a doctor who had graduated from a highly regarded American medical school. Although he grumbled about inflation and having to drive five hours to neighboring Tunisia to catch an international flight, his life did not sound so bad. He travels to Europe two or three times a year, he said, and vacations with his family at Egyptian beach resorts.

Notwithstanding Qaddafi's emphasis on

"Islamic socialism," the government tolerates a discreet private sector, including stores amply stocked with imported goods. "There are private schools, private clinics, private hospitals—you can have private anything if you want," the doctor said. (Most Libyans, of course, cannot afford such luxuries: a tube of Close-Up toothpaste costs the equivalent of \$10. But the government heavily subsidizes such basic foodstuffs as bread, milk and tomato paste, allowing ordinary people to get by.)

Reporters got a taste of the Libyan good life at their hotel, Janzur Village, a state-owned beach resort about 10 miles outside the capital. True, the service was indifferent and the dining-room menu never varied: grilled chicken and a tomato-and-lamb concoction called "libyan soup." But the rooms were air-conditioned, with clean sheets and a good view of the Mediterranean. And if you weren't bothered by the sewer outfall at the water's edge, the swimming wasn't bad, either.

(Perhaps a bit optimistically, Janzur Village aspires to the international tourist trade. "Desired by the businessmen from around the world," said the hotel's broken-English brochure. "The calm waves of thesea on its shore embrace the glittering and Golden Sandies where the disk is cuddling the early morning.")

No one, it turned out, likes to talk about politics in Libya. Consider this edifying exchange with Mahmoud Mohammed, a retired government worker whom I encountered with my official minder and another reporter on the steps of Tripoli's alabaster-white Al Quds mosque.

Reporter: What do you think of Qaddafi's leadership?

Interviewee: The people are the leaders

themselves.

Reporter: What will happen after Qaddafi is gone?

Interviewee: God willing, we want him to stay forever.

The hospital gala was a sight to behold, starting with the camel that glumly awaited its fate just outside the main entrance, legs bound with twine and a meat cleaver lying at its side. Qaddafi's arrival was heralded by the sound of ululating women, and a moment later he pushed his way into the lobby as nurses showered him with rose petals. As usual, the Libyan leader was surrounded by a retinue of highly irregular bodyguards, including ancient desert tribesmen clutching battered Kalashnikovs and his trademark—a handful of curvaceous women wearing blue jeans and semi-automatic pistols.

Qaddafi, putting the petals in his hair, did not look terribly well. His eyes were glassy and his face was creased and pale, almost waxy. But he gamely allowed himself to be led through an exhibit of Libyan-made pharmaceutical products, including aspirin from a plant at Rabta that the West claims is also used for making chemical weapons.

Sequestered in the beach-front hotel, the visiting journalists saw little of Tripoli itself, except what could be glimpsed through the bus windows. The downtown area was handsome enough, with well-kept Italianate buildings from the colonial era. But in general the city seemed sleepy and joyless, lacking even commercial advertising to break the monotony. The only color was the Islamic green of Qaddafi's September Revolution.

I left Tripoli by a different route, taking a taxi west into Tunisia. The border crossing



Libya's strongman MUAMMAR QADDAFI

was a nerve-racking affair, as dour-looking guards pawed through my belongings and, at one point, asked me to disassemble my satellite phone (eventually they thought better of the idea). Then there was the cab driver, who for music had only one cas-

sette tape, which he insisted on playing over and over for most of the five-hour trip.

Perhaps I shouldn't complain. It was, after all, the Beach Boys. ■

X-Rated exports

Explicit phone service goes global

By Mike Mills
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

THERE'S A boom in exports under way in the poor tropical country of Guyana. Rather, make that X-ports, of a product the world can't seem to get enough of—phone sex. This year, Guyana's lone telephone company could take in nearly \$100 million from its burgeoning trade in specialized information services, such as telephone sex, as dialers in the United States and other countries place international calls to X-rated services in Guyana.

New technology often has unforeseen consequences. But few business trends are as strange as what has resulted from the increasing ease and reliability of international calling: Phone sex has gone global.

Americans who dial up numbers for sexual talk with strangers may be reaching halfway around the world, often without realizing it. This has sent hundreds of millions of dollars flowing out of the United States and other industrial countries, experts said, and into faceless phone sex operations in places such as Guyana, the Philippines, Poland, the Netherlands Antilles islands and the tiny African country of Sao Tome. For the smaller countries these telephone services have become an important source of foreign exchange.

It's a huge business for Atlantic Tele-Net Inc., a US company that bought 80 percent of Guyana's national phone company, Guyana Tele-

phone & Telegraph, for \$16.5 million in 1991.

In 1992 it began making its circuits available to those offering "adult" chat, sports scores, weather, horoscopes and other audiotext services. ATN is incorporated in Delaware but has headquarters in the Virgin Islands, where it also operates that country's phone system.

"When we bought the (Guyana) phone company, we planned to run it just like a regular old phone company," company spokesman Edwin Crouch said. Then, he said, "audiotext found us," referring to the dozens of service providers in the United States and elsewhere that look for offshore places to handle calls. "We started marketing it and treating it as a serious business."

In 1991 Guyana was receiving no audiotext calls from abroad. In 1995 it logged 102 million minutes of calling, according to ATN. That accounted for \$91 million of Guyana Telephone & Telegraph's total revenue of \$131 million. The figures continue to grow: The count had reached 60 million minutes of international audiotext by the first half of this year.

Estimates differ as to what proportion of international audiotext calls involve sex. The London-based International Telemedia Association, an industry trade group, said only 35 percent, while Jason Kowal of Telegography Inc., a Washington market research firm, said the figure is more

than 90 percent.

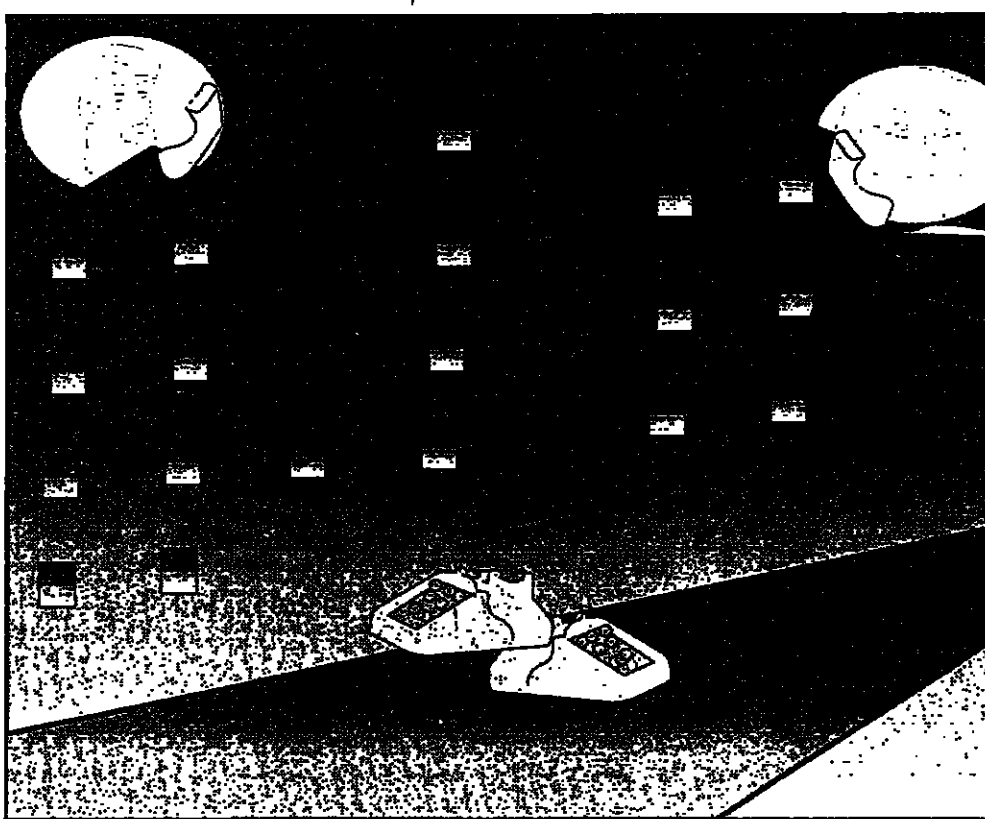
Whatever the split, Guyana now is tied with the Netherlands Antilles as the world leader in a \$1.8 billion international market for all types of audiotext services, according to Telegography. They are followed by the little-known nations of Niue in the South Pacific and Sao Tome.

The countries are playing to maximum effect an international payments system set up years ago that splits the cost of handling overseas calls. Under this system, the charges that an American pays for dialing Guyana, or any other country, are shared with that person's American long-distance company and the foreign phone company that picks up the call and routes it to the recipient.

For years, many smaller countries have set high per-minute rates for incoming international calls, in hopes of maximizing the revenue they get from abroad. Sometimes, this turns out to be counterproductive, because high rates mean that fewer people call the country.

But by setting up these chat lines, the economics change. Waves of new calls are generated into the country, placed by people who are willing to pay high per-minute charges. The country's phone company then turns around and shares a portion of that money with the operator of the sex lines.

In Guyana's case, US long-distance companies pay Guyana Telephone & Telegraph 85 cents a minute for calls they send into the country, one of the highest rates in



the Caribbean. The Guyana phone company, in turn, pays about 50 cents of that money to the audiotext service provider.

In Guyana, the phone company has taken steps to insulate the chat-line business from the country's population. Residents are blocked, from calling any of the services, GT&T's Crouch said, and the company has a rule barring service providers from mentioning Guyana in advertisements.

Guyanese political and opinion leaders said residents are barely aware of the lucrative revenue stream that flows to the local phone company.

"There was some stir about it the year before last, but it soon blew over," said W. Henry Skerrett, editor of *Kaieteur News*, a weekly in the capital of Georgetown. Instead, he said, people are

too concerned with deteriorating social conditions—rampant crime, joblessness and political instability—to worry about the phone system.

Pamada J. Menon, chairman of Guyana's Public Utilities Commission, said his main complaint is that GT&T has not used enough of the earnings from chat services to further upgrade the country's phone system. GT&T is fighting Menon's attempts to get the company to reserve 15 percent of its revenue for this purpose.

"I'm unhappy that the large cash flows are not being reinvested for the benefit of the people of Guyana," he said. "It doesn't matter to us where the revenue comes from."

Crouch said the audiotext revenues "have helped

toward the expansion of Guyana's phone system. Guyana certainly has a far better telephone system today than it did five years ago, and audiotext is a significant part."

Few Guyanese are employed as sex chatlers, experts in the industry said. One reason may be that many international services promise, but do not deliver, truly live conversations.

A call to an advertised Guyana number connected to a six-minute recording promising "live" adult-oriented talk, only to refer the caller to a number in Niue, where a seven-minute recording ended with directions to dial a third number. The third number also was a recording. The total bill for the three calls: \$71.33. ■

Colombia seeking tougher punishment for drug traffickers

By Juanita Darling
LA Times-Washington Post News Service

BOGOTA, Colombia—Fabio Ochoa celebrated the return of his prodigal sons, three men once at the top of the late Pablo Escobar's notorious Medellín cocaine cartel, with the Colombian highland version of killing a fatted calf.

The 70-year-old patriarch proudly told a Colombian news magazine this summer that he would roast enough pigs for a gathering of 40 branches of the Ochoa family when the last of his three sons was released from a high-security prison near his ranch.

Now the welcome-home party is over, and Jorge Luis Juan David and Fabio Jr. have paid their debts to society.

However, most Colombians were indignant to learn how little that debt was for men who helped run a cocaine empire that paid off politicians, judges and prosecutors—murdering those who would not take bribes—and then conducted a campaign of terrorism against extradition to the United States. The first of the drug lords to voluntarily turn themselves in, the Ochoas are also the first to get out of prison, having served barely five years behind bars.

What angers Colombians most is that they are now free with most of their fortune intact.

"It is inconceivable that they go to jail and come out to peacefully enjoy their ill-gotten gains," said Col. Benjamin Nunez, who heads an elite police force in the city of Cali that is responsible for arresting drug traffickers.

Controversy over the Ochoa case has given impetus to two new laws that will crack down on narcotics traffickers.

One lengthens the sentences in drug-related cases, and the other makes it easier for police to confiscate the property of suspected drug barons.

The more severe sentences will apply only to people arrested on drug charges after the law is passed. Provisions related to property will have a much longer reach: They could affect even the heirs of Pablo Escobar, the head of the Medellín cartel who was killed in a gunfight with police three years ago.

"Colombian law has been below international standards as far as penalties for narcotics traffickers and the legal regime for confiscating their goods and property," Justice Minister Carlos Medellin said.

The problem arose in the late 1980s, when Colombia was desperate to persuade drug traffickers to turn themselves in because, as fugitives from justice, they were conducting a campaign of terror—bombings, assassinations and kidnappings.

At first, the government offered not to extradite to the United States any narcotics traffickers who surrendered. But that incentive was not enough.

The government then offered reduced sentences to drug traffickers who confessed and cooperated with police, in an adaptation of the plea bargains used in the United States.

But unlike the United States, Colombia did not have long maximum penalties. Once the maximum sentences of 24 years or fewer—depending on the charge—were reduced, traffickers such as the Ochoas ended up with five years in prison.

"This is an unfortunate case," Medellin said. "Law-abiding Colombians were shocked that the cartel bosses received such light sentences."

At first, that shock was moderated by the relief that the cartel leaders were behind bars.

However, the realization of how little time was actually served hit home when the Ochoas were released this summer and went home to their ranches and fancy houses.

They claimed that much of their property was earned through their family's legitimate horse-breeding business. Under current Colombian law, goods can be confiscated only if prosecutors can prove during a criminal trial that they were purchased with the proceeds of criminal activities.

Under that strict standard, the government has been forced to return most of the goods it has confiscated. For example, from 1989 to 1995, the government seized more than 400,000 acres of land from suspected drug dealers. About 270,000 acres of that have been returned. When Escobar died, all criminal proceedings against him stopped.

As a result, his multimillion-dollar fortune passed directly to his heirs. The proposed law separates the confiscation of property from the criminal trial of a suspect.

"The property is no longer dependent on the outcome of the trial," Medellin explained. "The property itself is stained because it was acquired with money from criminal activities."

Because laws already on the books prohibit purchasing property with the proceeds of drug trafficking, all goods bought in the past by narcotics dealers—even those who are dead, like Escobar, or released from prison, like the Ochoas—would be subject to the new administrative procedure. "These new laws are a good reply, a way to say that what has happened in Colombia is serious." ■

US elections hold no hope for aid

By Shailaja Neelakantan

WASHINGTON—Whether it is Bill Clinton or Bob Dole, one thing will not change following the Presidential elections in the United States this November—the size of US development aid to poor countries.

Both the Democrats and the Republicans have an interest in seeing foreign aid frozen where it is—down from \$13.5 billion to \$12 billion after the Republicans took over Congress in November 1994. The simple reason, experts say, is that unlike in many European countries, there is no natural constituency for overseas aid in the US despite Democratic protestations. And this is an election year.

"The attitude to sustainable development has been that the developing world should focus on self help rather than seek outside help," says Mark Clack of Oxfam America.

And although the Democrats are perceived as being friendlier to development aid, there

are many in that party too who would like to see aid frozen, observers say.

"The Democratic administration has come down hard on aid for sustainable development, because they want to take the issue from (Republican Presidential candidate) Robert Dole," this November, if President Clinton won and later the House became Democratic we are still not going to see aid going back to the \$13.5 billion mark," says Clack.

"The national consensus seems to be that aid should go to promote growth at home rather than abroad," says Jonathan Clarke, a foreign policy expert at the Cato Institute in Washington and a former British diplomat who has served in Africa. "During the Cold War, supporters of developmental aid were able to make geostrategic arguments in favour of it. The US hasn't yet come up with a comprehensive post-Cold War international strategy."

Clarks says there is no public support in the US for foreign

aid—if anything, "it's a net vote loser here."

Doug Hellinger, Executive Director of the pressure group Development Gap, says: "I am still trying to figure out what (Vice President Al Gore) means when he says there is a natural constituency for aid in the US. Maybe he means that Americans are good-hearted. Sure they are, but they don't want to see an increase in aid or any aid at all."

Clack says the only time a senator may defend a foreign aid bill is if he or she has supporters from a large ethnic group which wants money to be spent on their country. "I know it sounds cynical, but they say that but for Israel and Egypt, there would be no US foreign aid at all," he adds.

A November 1995 opinion poll found that the average respondent believed that aid made up 26 per cent of federal spending and thought 13 per cent was a more reasonable level. In actual fact, all of US overseas spending accounts for just about one per cent of the

budget, with aid accounting for a meager 0.5 per cent.

The Foreign Operations Appropriations Bill conceals more than it reveals. Of the total aid for 1995, Israel and Egypt received over 40 per cent. But neither country is mentioned.

The US is the only member of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organization for Cooperation and Development (OECD)—comprising 21 of the world's richest countries—not to have committed itself to the United Nations aid target of 0.7 per cent of GNP. Among developed countries, the US aid budget is the lowest in terms of percentage of Gross National Product—0.15 per cent compared to Britain's 0.31 per cent, Denmark's 1.03 per cent and Germany's 0.34 per cent.

At the end of January 1996, Clinton signed legislation cutting bilateral development assistance to the DAC by 22 per cent and multilateral assistance by more than one-third from what had been agreed on

the previous fiscal year. Food aid funding is expected to decline by a further seven per cent.

"As a result of recent decision and proposals, continued US leadership on international development policy in particular, and global issues in general, is in serious doubt," a coalition of development NGOs said in a recent report.

Since 1995, many members of the new Republican majority in the Congress have expressed deep hostility toward foreign aid, arguing that it advances no interests in their home districts. "Many Republicans argued that aid must advance the national interest, which they defined largely in security and commercial terms," wrote Marc J. Cohen of the Bread for World Institute and Interaction in the report.

"Many explicitly argued that aid for sustainable development and Africa failed to meet this test. In a year when the political effort to balance the federal government budget by 2002 shaped virtually all legis-

lative discussion, aid was a tempting target because of a constituency that was not mobilized politically, and widespread overestimation of actual levels of spending."

The new focus of both parties is now to lend directly to the private sector in the developing world—or to guarantee increased private sector investment.

"This is no good," says Clarke. "It amounts to corporate welfare." He gives the example of post-Apartheid South Africa, where, he says, "all the money ends up in the hands of the contractors, who it so happens are Americans."

Domestically too, as the platforms of the two parties narrow, much of Republican campaign issues have been appropriated by the Democrats. The Administration recently signed a new bill dramatically slashing federal welfare grants in the US.

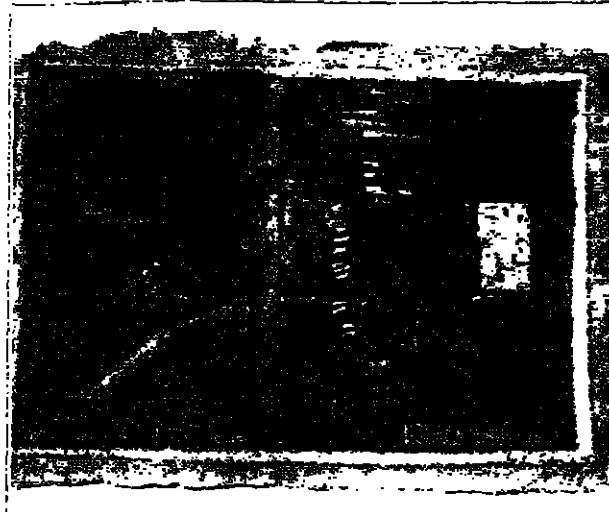
As Clack says, "This is a lame year for foreign affairs, because it's an election year." ■

AROUND TOWN

Dahdaleh at the FCC

Under the patronage of the French ambassador in Amman Mr Bernard Bajolet, an exhibition by the Jordanian artist Ghada Dahdaleh will be opened today at the French Cultural Center.

Dahdaleh makes her first exhibition after staying for some years in Canada. She is a graduate of the Central Fine Art College at Toronto. Her paintings depict doors and windows as symbols of light and hope.



Tourist cafe lights downtown

By Munther Hamdan
Star Staff Writer

A thorough look at the downtown area of Amman suggests an architectural and cultural uniqueness. The center of the capital is a melting pot where people from all over the country can meet. This rendezvous, also termed as the heart of Amman, is throbbing with life.

Different elements make up the present image of the downtown area. A distinct example of that is the cafes which are reflection of how Amman used to be. Not only have these cafes been places for relief from the hurly burly of everyday life but an important cultural settings where poets, politicians and artists used to hold discussions and engage in political discourse.

Because of the detachment of young people nowadays from the modern history of their country, these cafes are gradually losing influence. One reason is because of the construction of new cafes in western Amman that are mostly visited by young people. This left old cafes deserted except by its old customers who feel that they belong there.

Al Rasheed Courts or Eco-tourism Cafe in downtown Amman is a unique place. It marks a change from the old and traditional parlours. The history of the cafe dates back to 1924. Today it combines the magic of the past and the touch of modernity. Mostly destined by tourists, the cafe plays a big role in attracting them to Jordan. "Every tourist who comes to the cafe finds brochures that gives him full information about Jordan," Hisham Al Ijeh, the manager of the cafe, told *The Star*. He added that the majority of tourists who come to Jordan look for the cleanest and cheapest places and "we provide them."

Tourists always want to explore new things which they have not experienced before. What



Al Rasheed Courts or Eco-tourism cafe in downtown Amman

is attractive about Al Rasheed cafe is its colorful balcony. Hardly anybody passes by without being amazed by the front wall of the balcony painted with almost all the flags of the countries of the world. According to Al Ijeh, pedestrians do not usually look upward unless you present them with something unusual. He said that anybody who sits in such a friendly atmosphere will

feel at home.

Being an Eco-tourism cafe is an unprecedented idea. The eco-tourism concept has been lately introduced to Jordan where tourists can enjoy camping in natural reserves with all facilities provided. Al Ijeh said that "we don't use any disposable material in the cafe."

Sitting in a cafe in the center of the country

makes one feel he has control on everything surrounding him. It is just like viewing the area from a different angle. One is tired of walking in crowded places seeing always the same things. In Al Rasheed "you have the chance to look and ponder at things from above."

The interior of the cafe is no less attractive than the outside. Its old architecture remained the same without substantial changes. Al Ijeh added that "we still use old cups and Nargiles."

The pleasant atmosphere and available facilities of the cafe is another reason behind tourists' interest in it. There are some other cafes in the downtown area but tourists shy away from them because "they are not fully equipped and lack cleanliness." Al Ijeh is not only a manager but a friend to all of the tourists and customers of the cafe. He is always there to offer tourists books, maps and brochures that would help them tour Jordan. He also listens to their complaints and problems and seeks to report these issues to the Ministry of Tourism.

In Jordan, the tourism sector must grow more. Jordan has the potential to be a tourist country as it has a large number of touristic sites. The Ministry of Tourism must encourage the initiative of Mr Al Ijeh and his partners for playing such an important role in turning the downtown into a touristic place just like Petra, Jerash and Um Qais.

Just as Hashem Restaurant and Central Cafe are major parts of Amman and known for almost every tourist, Al Rasheed cafe's contribution to tourism should be highlighted. "To make the cafe a tourist information center we are planning to go on the internet," Al Ijeh added.

Al Roumi sings for children

AMMAN (Star)—The acclaimed Lebanese singer Majida Al Roumi held last Thursday a thrilling concert at the Amman Inter-Continental Hotel entitled *Lailat Shuruk*. The concert, held on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Inter-Continental Hotels and Resorts and UNICEF, gave the audience the opportunity to experience the magic of Al Roumi's latest songs. HRH Prince Ra'ad Bin Zeid attended the concert as a representative of Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor.

Al Roumi sang both her latest and old songs to an audience who appreciates originality. Wearing her blue dress ornamented

with flowers and pearls, Al Roumi sang 21 songs which lasted for 95 minutes. She started the concert singing *Ratek Wel Khair*, a song that praises Jordan and its leadership. The song is composed and written by the Lebanese poet Ily Shweiri. Being the daughter of the famous Lebanese composer Hafeem Al Roumi, she could not but sing *Maratta Fi Khuldi*, a song composed by her father. Other songs that show Al Roumi's good choice of tunes and words are *Kun Sadeeqi*, *Ainak* and *Shou Bahih Ashur*. She also performed *Kalumi*, a song based on the poem of the Syrian poet Nizar Qabani. Majda's political songs revive the old



days of rebellions. They call on every Arab to resume fighting against the enemy. In addition to her love songs, Al Roumi sang *Anaqed Al Ghudab* (Grapes of Wrath). She expresses through this song Arabs' anger at the last Israeli aggression on Lebanon and the brutality with which people were killed. The songs states that the criminals will be punished sooner or later and people will take revenge on them.

The main objective behind the concert is to offer help to the needy children of the world. Al Roumi said that singing for children should be seen as a "national duty." She sang *Tista Sugheera*, (A Little Girl), a song which is a message from a little girl who has caught a dangerous disease thanking all those who helped her. Al Roumi expressed her obligation towards the coming generation. In this respect, all the proceeds of this concert and other concerts planned to be held all over the world on the occasion will be devoted to helping the children of the world. Al Roumi concluded the concert by singing *Beiruti Su Adnani*. This song reveals Al Roumi's obsession with her country and her wish that Beirut resumes its past glory.



Cyprus tourism director praises area

AMMAN (Star)—In its attempt to encourage Jordanian tourists to experience the marvels of Cyprus, the Cyprus Airlines in Amman, directed by Mr Awni Mudareen, held a dinner party last week in honor of Mr Cleantous Nafitis, director of the Cyprus Tourism Organization in the Middle East and Gulf countries. Mr Nafitis participated recently in the Travel Market '96 which was held at the Philadelphia Hotel. He expressed his satisfaction with his frequent visits to Jordan and admiration of the touristic and architectural boom Jordan is witnessing.

Abu Shakra presents "Les Belles de Ricci"



AMMAN (Star)—Abu Shakra Trading Agency organized a press conference last Thursday at the Forte Grand Hotel for presenting the new fragrance from Nina Ricci "Les Belles de Ricci." Mr Rami Abu Shakra, the general manager, attended the conference with Mr Patrick Bouchard from Nina Ricci.

Mr Abu Shakra said: we will always present the latest in perfumes and cosmetics, we seek to satisfy our clients. Mr Bouchard welcomed the Abu Shakra Agency and presented the new fragrance by saying that Les Belles de Ricci is a new fragrance ready to break the rules.

It is the new accomplice for all those young girls, who'll dare anything and are afraid of nothing. It is the indispensable fragrance from Nina for all those young girls who, in spite of everything, attack life with gusto.

The perfume is an impetuous and refined choice of shimmering fruit and leafy greenness, of crystal clear fun and games that are quite simply invigorating while developed in Nina Ricci perfume's finest tradition of excellence. It is an amazing and sophisticated choice to counteract set ideas on fragrance. It expresses today's desire to take grim reality with a smile. "Les Belles de Ricci" is for all those women that have a young spirit. Mr Abu Shakra concluded by saying that this new perfume will be available at the eight Abu Shakra's showrooms and refined perfumeries and pharmacies.



Al Baydar revives ancient times

AMMAN (Star)—The Near East has the aura of ancient times. The past stands still and things are measured in tens and hundreds of years.

In Jordan, Al Baydar (a village built in the 1840's) has that aura. It is located 15 minutes from Queen Alia International Airport, and 25 minutes from downtown Amman. The old village is managed by Issam Al Masri and Tarek Qaqesh.

The souk market used to be the center of Arab towns where most business and exchange took place. Like the times before, Al Baydar souk consists of closely knit small shops that display the traditional products of the silk road.

When the shearing season starts, village women gather and merrily sew traditional robes and home linens, and knit colorful embroidered rugs using the loom, a symmetrical weaving machine. For home storage, natural colored banana leaf baskets are crafted all year long.

No souk would call itself one without Al Attar, the shop that sells spices and the plants of the bedouin beauty and long life including herbs and plants that have long been used for therapeutic and cosmetic purposes.

Bread is home baked on the *Tabboun* (a traditional screened tin stove) giving the dough a unique flavor. Among Jordan's antiquities, pottery lies abundant. Its variety is a testimony to the skill of the ancient who worked it.

Visitors entering Al Baydar immediately have the option to relax in Al Shag, the traditional terrace cafe overlooking the



golden desert. A snack of Arab pastries like *manakish* and *fatayer* can be seen prepared at Al Fum (Bakery).

Scrapbook A few of my favorite things!

By Osama El-Sherif

REMEMBER THE Julie Andrews song in "The Sound of Music" about a few of her favourite things in life. Well Julie was a modest person who didn't demand much and little things made her happy. It seems. But what about a few of the favorite things that you and I want in life: not for ourselves, mind you, but for the community at large. What are the little things that, if fulfilled, would make our world slightly better than it is now.

I jotted on my scrapbook some of the things that I would like to see happening in our world. They are little things, you see, so no reason to make fun at them.

I would like to see a ban on plastic bags and a return to paper ones, like the ones we used to have before the industrial revolution reached Jordan in the early eighties. God only knows how many unsuspecting goats perished in our prairies after choking on this non-biodegradable fodder which now punctuates our landscape and may soon replace the *Black Iris* as our national flower. Environmentally speaking, the advent of plastic bags was a catastrophic event and that's why they are now being phased out completely in most countries. In America, for instance, supermarkets and boutiques have all reverted to the good-old paper bag.

Another "little" thing that I would like to see phased out by law from our community is the extremely distasteful bad habit of spitting in public. As Jordanians become more urbanized one would expect such habits to die out. But not necessarily. This disgusting habit passes almost unnoticed by the public to the extent that one gets the impression that it has become a socially acceptable practice. In Singapore, I think, one faces a fine of about \$500 for spitting in public. I think a city ordinance should be passed imposing a hefty fine on those caught spitting in public.

Moving to a lighter item, another little, tiny, insignificant item on my list of favorite things is to decommission, as the US Navy would say, all those pick trucks and army lorries which emit black unburnt diesel fuel from exhaust pipes as they drive on our streets and highways. Not one serious study has been made yet of the amount of pollutants these fumes add to the air we breathe everyday. Being caught behind one of those lorries as it climbs uphill for even few minutes is like falling victim to second-hand smoking all your life—or worse!

These are few of my favourite little wishes in life. I have many more; a decent street map of Amman, smiling and courteous public servants, TV talk shows that don't put you to sleep, theater plays that don't have funny names such as "Oh my back" and "A five star government", etc.... They don't seem much, I know, and I'm sure no deputy would get elected by building his campaign around such insignificant wishes. But just imagine if my wishes were granted: what a wonderful world this could be!

THE FAR SIDE

By GARY LARSON



"Well, it just sort of wriggled its way up the beach, grabbed Jonathan, and dragged him back again. I mean, the poor thing must have been half-starved."



"Well, shucks! I've lost again. Talk about your alien luck!"

AGENDA

Exhibitions

■ Summer '96, at Darat al Funun, continues till 10 October.

■ Basketry Exhibition, at Jordan Design and Trade Center, continues till 10 October.

■ *Shajan*, by Muhammad Al Jaloo, at Baladna Art Gallery, ends today.

■ Works by Ghada Dahdaleh at The French Cultural Center, continues between 2 till 29 October.

■ Works by Sherin Audeh at Plastic Art Association, continues till 6 October.

Films

■ *Prisma*, at Goethe Institut, 5 October, at 8 pm.

■ *Sravyaki*, at The French Cultural Center, 7 October, at 8 pm.

Lectures

■ *God the Architect*, by Kahtan Al Madfa'e, at Darat Al Funun, on 6 October at 7 pm.

Now see us

Tak



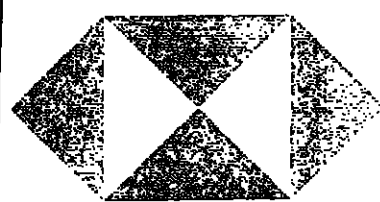
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GERMAN UNITY DAY

German Foreign Minister 'We're looking forward to Berlin'

By Dr Klaus Kinkel,
Federal Minister for
Foreign Affairs

ON 24 August 1996, the Federal Foreign Office's open day in its future Berlin home, 15,000 Berliners and guests from all over the world joined together in a large and colorful party. From the end of 1999 at the latest, Germany's foreign policy will be directed from the *werdersche markt* in the heart of the German capital, within walking distance of *unter den Linden*, Berlin's grand boulevard, the *schlossplatz* and the Friedrichswerder Church designed by Prussia's great architect Karl-Friedrich Schinkel.

By choosing the motto of

'the federal foreign office is looking forward to Berlin' for the open day, I wanted to point out that German reunification is a unique gift which has been passed over by all too many. The return from the Rhine to the spire by parliament and government is something we had desired for decades. It was always clear that following reunification, Berlin would once again be the capital and the political center of Germany. Thus the way we Germans use this unique opportunity of German unity is for us, and for our friends and partners worldwide, a litmus test of our ability to shape the future. This task will be all the more successful if we address it with zeal, vigour and self-confidence.

For the entire world Berlin and the Brandenburg gate were the sombre witnesses to the division of our country and of people, not only Germans, but also Europeans. At the same time it symbolized hope for freedom and the end of division. In 1989/90 Germany was reunited to peace and freedom with the approval of all our neighbors.

Today, for the first time in its history, Germany is surrounded entirely by friends and is respected throughout the world as a stable democracy. This gives us a sense of gratitude and confidence. In June 1996 I invited the NATO and Russian foreign ministers and the other members of the North Atlantic Cooperation Council to convene to Berlin. We met as friends and partners just a few steps away from the former Berlin Wall—a historic event which even a few years ago would have been unthinkable.

Our partners abroad are keen to know if and how Germany's role to the world might change when the 'Bonn Republic' becomes the 'Berlin Republic.' This is understandable. But, sometimes there is also connection that the move to Berlin will mean that Germany's thinking, too, will move eastwards away from its old friends (semi) indeed, that its political orientation might change when the government is no longer situated in Bonn but in the neopolis of Berlin.

There is no reason for such



Dr Kinkel



Berlin's Brandenburg Gate has become a symbol of German Unity

German Ambassador, Peter Mende '...Our aim is to seek stability in the region and we will assist in that goal'

EDITOR'S NOTE: On the occasion of German National Unity Day, *The Star's* Osama El Sherif talked to newly appointed German Ambassador in Amman, Mr Peter Mende, on issues pertaining to Jordan-German relations and Germany's stand on regional issues such as peace and development. Mr Mende is a veteran diplomat with first-hand knowledge of the Middle East. His last post before coming to Jordan was ambassador to Sudan's capital Al Khartoum. Mr Mende is not new to Jordan. He served here between 1970-1971 as a head of mission. Excerpts follow:



Mende

On German National Unity Day
I was happy to witness the whole process of reunification from the beginning and afterwards. The enthusiasm of people on both sides [East and West Germany] was overwhelming. However, there developed a kind of a lack of enthusiasm because of what is seen as the burdens of reunification. But those who are more familiar with the situation are very optimistic that in the medium and long term, we will succeed as a united Germany.

On learning from the German reunification experience

German reunification was a very peaceful process which enabled us to start immediately to set up the structures for economic development, democratic institutions, the system of law and others. Without peace, without stability, without order and without honest partners, it might be more difficult to achieve lasting

peace for the region.

On German and European role in activating the stalled peace process in the region

The Europeans, and Germany as one of the major players in the European Union, put the priority on economic development. But economic development needs time, needs stability, needs confidence. We are not so happy about the speed of the process now—whether as Europeans or as Germans. There are certain factors responsible for that. The German government will always try to talk

to the politicians in the region to show reason, to fulfill the contractual and other pledges and promises...

On the 'conditionality' of aid to the countries of the region

Additional cooperation is tied to progress in the peace process. The responsible partners must do their homework, then outside cooperation could bring fruits. But first of all, it is the responsibility of the governments of the region. Outside governments should be careful in giving advice; our aim is to seek stability in the region and we will assist in that goal. How the partners will reach such a goal should be up to them.

On bilateral relations between Jordan and Germany

German-Jordan relations are excellent, between the governments, between the leaders, between politicians, between the people. So I will do everything to continue to strengthen these relations

On the MENA conference that will be held in Cairo in October and the readiness of the German private sector in investing in the region.

The interest of the business sector to participate in the Cairo economic summit is even more than it was in Amman. The German delegation will be led by the German Minister of Economy, and I know from preparations that the representatives of business will come to Cairo because they are optimists and have a positive mood towards the region. ■

المعرض الدولي لتكنولوجيا الأغذية (أنوغا فودت)

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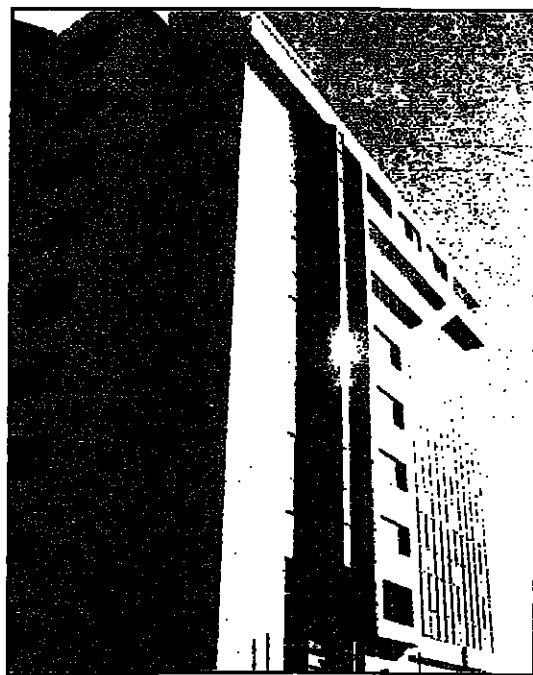
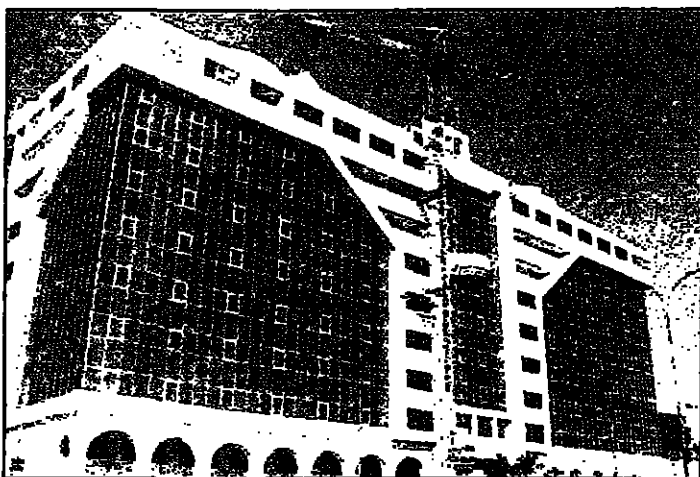
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Berlin

Jordan-German bilateral relations develop into a higher gear

AMMAN (Star)—The relationship between Germany and Jordan is being boosted and reinforced.

The governments of two countries stress that a peaceful settlement in the Middle East, means political stability which will mean economic prosperity and development.

The last peace agreement between Jordan and Israel and the accords related to opening embassies and crossing points, is seen by Germany as a "positive step towards a comprehensive peace settlement in the region."

German-Jordanian cooperation is backed by high level visits made by Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor to the Federal Republic of Germany (FRG). The German Chancellor, Helmut Kohl made an official visit to Jordan in 1985. Many German ministers also visited Jordan, the last was the visit of the Federal Foreign Minister, Klaus Kinkel to Jordan. He visited Jordan on the occasion of the celebration of the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli peace agreement.

The two states are seeking to strengthen bilateral relations, cooperation and coordination through the international organizations such as the United Nations, the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

Concerning their commercial ties, the volume of trade exchange between Jordan and



His Majesty King Hussein receives Chancellor Kohl in one of his earlier visits to Jordan

Germany has recorded a noticeable rise of 11.4 percent between 1993-94. It was up from DM 440.9 million to DM 491.2 million. German imports from Jordan over the same period rose from DM 12 million to DM 14.2 million. This is an increase of 18.3 percent.

German exports to Jordan also leaped by 11.2 percent, from DM 428.9 million in 1993 to

DM 497 million in 1994.

Germany imports textile strings, cotton, readymade garments and electrical products from Jordan, while it exports equipment to Jordan. In 1994, they were DM 115.9 million, which represent 24.3 percent of total German exports to Jordan.

Then comes cars and the auto spare parts at DM 89.3 million, and chemical products at DM

\$8.5 million.

Other items imported from Germany include optical and technical instruments, foodstuff and agricultural products.

Moreover there are direct German investments in Jordan, until now, are very few (only 2 million marks) but there is a tendency to develop this field of cooperation between the two sides

since 1993.

The volume of financial and technological development cooperation between the two countries reached DM 2.1 billion marks until April, 1995.

Added to this, special aid of DM 350 million was given to Jordan during the Gulf war.

These sums include finances given to Jordan from non-governmental organizations for development purposes and training.

Germany comes in third place after Japan and the United States among non-Arab countries who provide Jordan with development aid.

Presently, the development projects focus on the major problems in Jordan, "water shortage". Germany provides Jordan with financial assistance for these projects in addition to its support for a small and medium range of agricultural and industrial ventures.

Moreover, German institutions cooperate with Jordan in the field of technical and advanced development through giving consultations to the Water Authority, the Ministry of Agriculture and the Agricultural Marketing Corp.

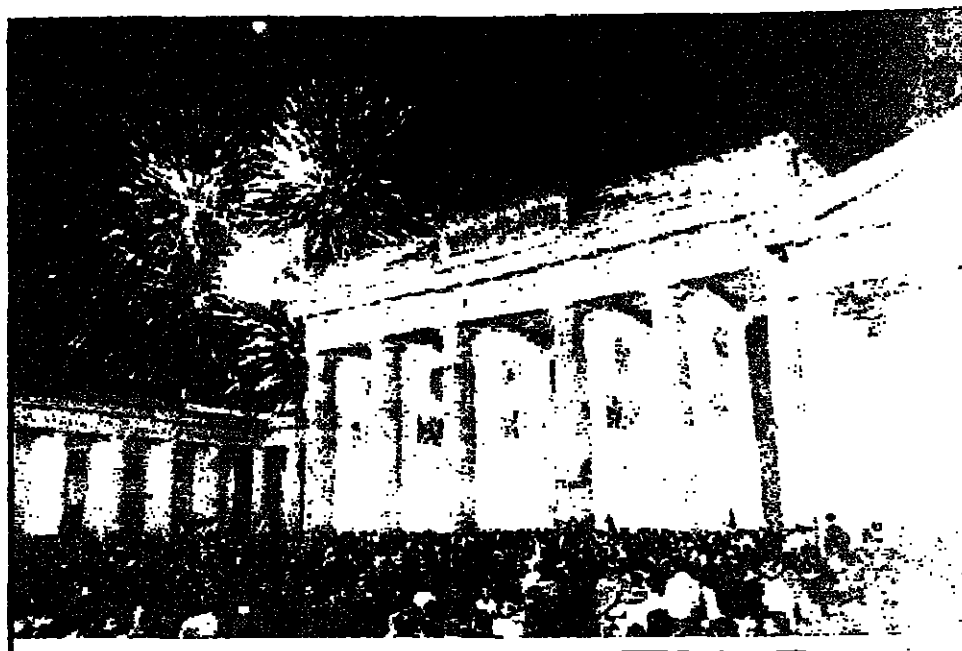
Other aspects of cooperation between the two countries cover health, conservation of antiquities (in Petra), customs, environmental projects and preservation of natural resources.

In addition to this, the cultural ties between Jordan and Germany are based on the German-Jordanian Cultural agreement signed in 1979. This agreement deals with numerous fields such as exhibitions to encourage art, museums, literature, sports, universities and cultural institutes.

There is also exchange and strong cooperation between Jordan and Germany in scientific visits and lectures made by Jordanian scholars to Germany and vice-versa.

There are some German professors who teach German language and literature in Jordanian schools and universities.

On the international arena, Germany was very active in helping Jordan to be favoured by the European Union in its system on customs tariffs. This is in addition to helping Jordan in its Association agreement with the European Union. ■



GERMAN UNITY DAY

Walid Jarrar Company Restoring Grundig products to local market

WALID JARRAR Company is one of those famous firms trading in electric instruments, satellites and furniture in Jordan.

In 1995, we have become the general agents for the German "Grundig" company in the Kingdom. Since that time, we are trying our best to restore Grundig to the local market and promote its products.

Grundig company basically depends on the international standards and qualifications as a result of its competitiveness. This can be emphasized through its slogan "Grundig made for you."

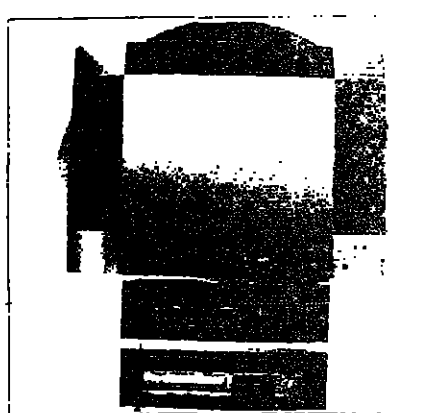
Moreover, we have opened a center for providing maintenance for Grundig equipment in Jordan. This center is equipped with all necessary cadres and apparatus to give maintenance for the equipment.

Walid Jarrar company had tried its best to reinforce the attractive image of Grundig equipment in the Jordanian market. A full variety of Grundig products is at the hand of the Jordanian citizens including televisions, videos, stereos and others and at a competitive acceptable price.

There are five shops for these systems in the company's branches at university road, Safeway, Al-Sweifiyeh, Al-Musdar and Zarka. Available Grundig products include televisions, videos, stereos, Faximilis, Radios, Satellites, and telephone systems. ■



Walid Jarrar



Frankfurt Messe highlighted in Amman

AMMAN (Star)—Germany is a pioneer in trade fairs. It has the largest number of exhibitors and visitors to these fairs. Almost each city in Germany has its special trade fairs which display the latest in technology.

Among others, Germany's fairs target the markets of the Middle East as potential outlets for its wide range of products. One of these highly influential fairs is the Frankfurt Messe. Its representative, Mr Peter Thomaschewski, arrived in Amman on a visit to the Middle East which included Saudi Arabia and Dubai. The purpose is to update Jordanian businessmen on the services the fair offers and give a full picture about its facilities.

A press conference, organized by Ismael Al-Tilawi and Sons Co., at the Regency Hotel last Monday hosted Mr Thomaschewski, to talk about the advantages and characteristics of the

fair. Attending the conference were Mr Muhammad Al-Tilawi, general manager of Al-Tilawi company, Mr Haidar Murad, head of Amman Chamber of Commerce, and other Jordanian businessmen.

Mr Thomaschewski said that the premises of the fair underwent renovation. The fair he added has 10 halls of 25 levels spreading, each hall displays certain products. 60 percent of the fair is owned by the city of Frankfurt and 40 percent by the State of Hesse. It received 2.9 million visitors last year and 44,800 exhibitors at the



(From Left) Al-Tilawi and Thomaschewski

183 events the fair organized in Germany and abroad. It has a special 540-room hotel and a congress center. ■

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2010 Berlin vision: only steam exhaust emission

Daimler Benz's new-style automobile

BERLIN—Mercedes Benz has unveiled the first functioning research automobile powered by a fuel cell. The only emission from its exhaust pipe is steam. The first standard production model will start rolling off the assembly line in 2010 at the latest.

The idea of hydrogen power as a "clean" alternative to the internal combustion engine tops the list of research projects for many automobile manufacturers. American carmakers cooperate with aerospace companies. The Japanese have focussed on the fuel cell since the beginning of the present decade. Now, Mercedes-Benz has unveiled the solution. The research vehicle—named "Necar II"—purged its way quietly through the streets of Berlin.

The hydrogen-powered automobile is actually an electro-car, though the electrical energy required to make it move is produced in a fuel cell. In this process, hydrogen and oxygen are mixed in the fuel cell. To prevent a detonating gas reaction, the two are not brought into direct contact. They are kept separate, so that only one of the two gases is allowed to escape in electrically charged form. The hydrogen side of the electrolyte is thus negatively charged, the oxygen side positively, creating electrical tension that can be used as a power source. All that is left over is pure water, which ultimately escapes as steam through the exhaust system. An added advantage is that the power system is much quieter than the internal combustion engine, as it does not produce explosions or combustion and involves no moving parts.

The required quantity of hydrogen is

stored in a tank housed in the raised roof of the test vehicle. The oxygen is drawn from the environment. Mercedes sees no safety problems. Research engineer Alfons Rennefeld explains that, in the event of a collision, the risk of explosion would be no greater than with a conventional automobile. The hydrogen tank, he claims, is at least as safe as a petroleum tank. Rennefeld adds: "We dropped the hydrogen tank on to its valve from a height of 30 metres. No gas escaped."

For engineers, hydrogen as a automotive fuel is more of a practical problem. For one thing, there's no way of providing the gas at filling stations. And very large storage tanks are needed. So ways of producing the fuel "on board" are under investigation.

Mercedes currently favours methanol, which can be produced easily, efficiently and independently of present-day energy sources. Moreover, like diesel oil or petrol, methanol could be taken on board at filling stations then separated into hydrogen and carbon dioxide. However, the latter is just the very gas that contributes to the so-called "greenhouse effect" in heating up the global environment. But Mercedes Benz calculates that it would save so much fuel that CO₂ emissions could be reduced by half.

The German company will take a final decision before the year 2000 on whether to go ahead and produce fuel cell automobiles. But company chief Helmut Werner is optimistic. He says future "A-Class" models equipped with a fuel cell could start rolling from the production line in 2010 at the latest - and be offered at "normal" prices. (BZ) ■

Goethe Institut Globalizing German culture

THE GOETHE-Institut was founded in 1951 to promote a wider knowledge abroad of the German language and to foster cultural cooperation with other countries. It is a non-profit-making, public-funded organization with its head office in Munich. Under the terms of an agreement with the German Foreign Ministry, the Goethe Institute is involved in a variety of activities in the field of cultural relations.

Policy decisions are made by a governing board with members drawn from a wide range of professions. As a world-wide organization with 160 centres in about 70 countries, the Goethe-Institut plays an important role in providing access to German language and culture all over the world.

The Goethe-Institut's branches are worldwide and its 17 teaching centers offer a wide variety of German language courses at all levels.

It also organizes special language courses for professional people who need to use German for their work. Summer courses for young people combine learning German with a varied programme of leisure, social and sports activities.

Learning about German life

and culture is an integral part of every language course. At the Goethe-Institut, learning German means getting to know Germany.

Examinations leading to internationally recognized qualifications in German can also be taken at the Goethe-Institut.

■ **Zertifikat Deutsch als Fremdsprache**—A certificate demonstrating a knowledge of everyday German awarded jointly with the German Adult Education Association.

■ **Kleines Deutsches Sprachdiplom und Großes Deutsches Sprachdiplom**—diplomas demonstrating advanced levels of competence, accepted for admission purposes by German universities and awarded in conjunction with the University of Munich.

■ **Profung Wirtschaftssprache**—a certificate in German Business, awarded in association with the German Chamber of Industry and Commerce.

One of the Goethe-Institut's primary tasks is to promote German language teaching in other countries. It forms close links with educational institutions, universities, associations of German language teachers



During a reception when HRH Prince Ra'ad Ben Zeid handed over the Al Kawkab Medal to Dr Dieter Glade conferred by His Majesty King Hussein. Dr Musa Kilani is on the left.

and institutes of adult education in the host country. Another aspect of its work is helping "local teachers of German to update their teaching methods. It does this by:

■ Organizing in-service training on the latest developments in German language teaching.

■ Supplying textbooks and teaching materials suited to local needs.

■ Awarding scholarships for German studies in the Federal Republic of Germany.

The Goethe-Institut fosters mutual understanding through an awareness and appreciation of German culture, thought and achievement.

In close cooperation with institutions and individuals in the host country, it organizes and promotes a wide range of cultural activities in the arts and humanities:

■ Conferences, lectures and discussions;

■ Experimental, documentary and feature films;

■ Concerts of classical and contemporary music, jazz, pop and rock;

■ Music workshops;

■ Ballet and dance performances;

■ Theatre productions;

■ Documentary and fine art exhibitions;

■ Author readings;

■ Radio and television production training.

Professional and technical

forts to strengthen the ties between our two countries. It is worth mentioning that in recognition of the good relations between Jordan and Germany and our intensive cultural programs in Jordan, the Goethe-Institut in Amman was honoured from Germany and Jordan during the last years on several occasions:

In 1994 Dr Leila Naim was the first Jordanian citizen and the first woman in the Arab World to get the "Goethe Medal" in appreciation of her intellectual, cultural and social works in Jordan and Germany.

In 1995 Mrs Samira Goussous, an employee of the Goethe-Institut was granted the "Klaus von Bismarck Prize", a German Prize granted to local staff of the Goethe-Institutes abroad for their outstanding achievements in serving the institute's aims.

And in July 1996 His Majesty King Hussein conferred the Kawkab Medal, Third Degree on Dr Dieter Glade, director of the Goethe-Institut in Amman in recognition of his distinguished services in the field of culture and in promoting the relations between Jordan and Germany. ■

Program of the Goethe - Institut October/November '96

1.10. Tuesday: Eulenspiegel - Nasreddin - Joha (Lecture) in the Modern Language Centre: University of Jordan. 11 p.m.

3.10. Sunday: The integration of handicapped people in the community-comparing between German and Arabic experiences (Lecture in Arabic language): in Mafrag. 11 a.m.

5.10. Saturday: Raulien Revier (Film: 85 min., engl. subtitled) Goethe-Institut: 8:00 p.m.

9-10. Wednesday: Follow up Meeting of the Graduates of German Universities Goethe-Institut: 6:00 p.m.

15.10. Tuesday: Introduction to the Project: Agricultural Extension and Promotion of Production (Lecture in English) Goethe-Institut: 6:30 p.m.

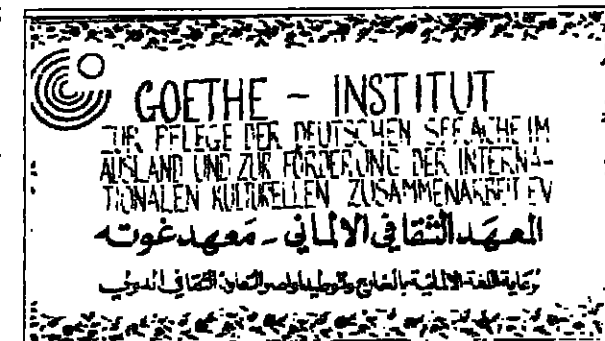
19.10. Saturday: The second awakening of the Christa Klages (Film: 88 min. Engl. subtitled). Goethe-Institut: 6:00 p.m.

11.11. Monday: Exhibition in the Royal Cultural Centre.

13.11. Wednesday: Symposium on Environmental Protection.

17.11. Sunday: Trumpet-Quintet in Cooperation with the National Music Conservatory (Concert)

For more information call 640993



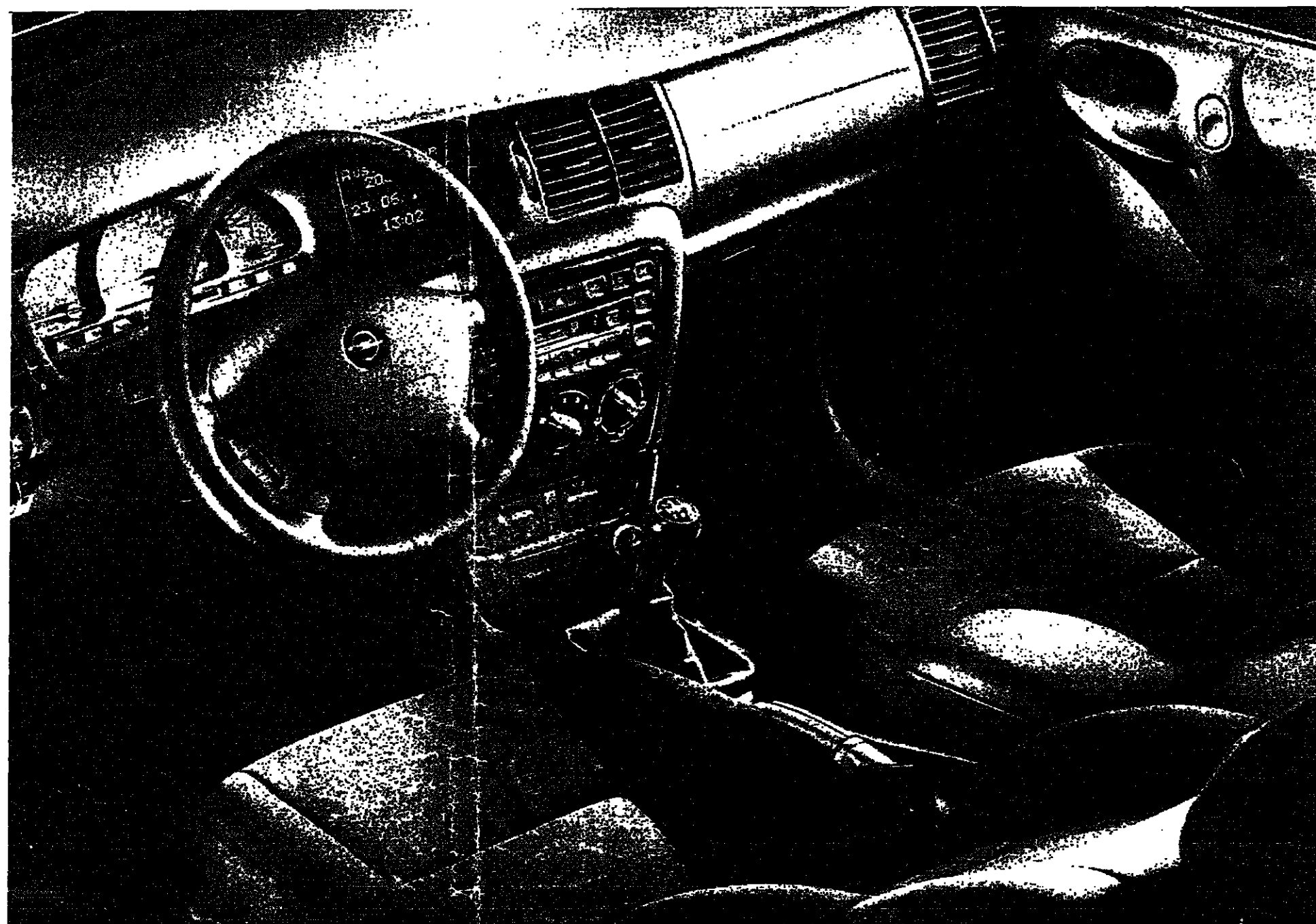
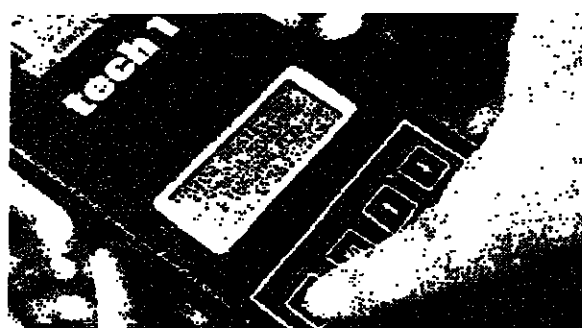
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GERMAN UNITY DAY

German capital builds for the future New transport links attract visitors and investors to Berlin

BERLIN—“Berlin is Europe's biggest building site,” said Eberhard Diepgen, Governing Mayor of the German capital, pointing as an example to the 1,200 construction cranes visible over a wide area. Work is in progress on around 2,000 excavated sites, the largest at Potsdamer Platz, measuring 11,00 square metres.

A desolate area during the years of Germany's division, criss-crossed by barbed wire and concrete, it is destined to resume its role as the bustling centre of the metropolis. World-famous firms such as Daimler-Benz or Deutsche Bank are settling here. The “Kaisersaal”—the imperial hall of the old Esplanade hotel—forms the centrepiece of a new complex established by the Sony technology concern. For technical reasons, the 1,800-ton banquet hall—in which the German Kaiser often took meals at the beginning of this century—had to be moved from its original location, shifted and turned around on an air cushion. A large underground station forming the confluence of tunnels carrying both inner-city and trunk services is under construction below the square.

“Galeries Lafayette”—the Paris department store renowned for exquisite fashion and fine foods—has already opened a branch on the second major construction site on Friedrichstrasse in the former eastern part of the city. American investors are setting up businesses around the Lauder cosmetics concern at a cost of more than DM 1 billion at the site of “Checkpoint Charlie,” the now almost legendary east-west crossing-point in the Berlin Wall for diplomats and westerners.

The new German government quarter is under construction on both banks on a bend of the Spree river. In the immediate vicinity, par-

liamentarians will meet in the reconstructed “Reichstag” and the ancillary buildings grouped around the erstwhile seat of Germany's first democracy. The Federal Chancellor's official residence will also be built in the same district. The new seat of parliament and government will be fully ready to function at the turn of the centuries.

The various construction projects have inspired competition among world-famous architects such as Renzo Piano, Oswald Mathias Ungers, Richard Rogers and Arata Isozaki. So it's no wonder that “building site tourism” (to quote Governing Mayor Diepgen) is booming. Guided tours dubbed “strolls through the building sites” are highly popular. Frank Schmeichel, marketing director of the “Checkpoint Charlie Group,” has invented a new art form known as “Building site culture.” Some 180 entertainment artists from throughout the world have scheduled performances lasting a total of 800 hours during the summer of 1996. The organisers say a construction site can be more than just a noisy, dusty traffic hindrance.

Links with the world will be improved through the construction of a central airport in Schönefeld, on the fringes of the city. In domestic travel, this will have a competitor in the form of a super-modern magnetic suspension rail service between the Berlin government quarter and the north German port of Hamburg. The “Transrapid” is designed to cover the 280 kilometers in just under one hour, traveling at speeds of up to 400 kph. The first section of the railway is due for completion by 1998, the remainder by 2005. This should make the Transrapid between Hamburg and Berlin the first scheduled service of its kind in the world. ■

Inter Natives

“OF THE Necessity of Being Just Where One Is” is the title of a piece the Portuguese writer Rui Horta, who works in Frankfurt, created for the EnDanza dance troupe from Brazil. Rather than just characterizing a single work that ambiguous title could have been the programmatic title for the whole of the two-week international dance festival organized by Stuttgart's cultural office in August.

Like the first such venture two years ago, artistic director Johannes Odenthal invited a broad spectrum of dancers from all over the world to investigate “Languages of the Body.” Following “Nature in the Head” in 1993, interest was specifically focused this time on “Ways to Myth.”

The artistic program—with such celebrated names alongside EnDanza as the Lucinda Childs Dance Company (New York), Suraja Hilal (Cairo), Cia Vicente Saez (Valencia), Meg Stuart (New York), and Jan Fabre (Antwerp)—(Antwerp)—showed how different these ways can be, or rather how diverse the starting-points and the outcome must therefore be.

Among the highlights certainly were Kofi Koko, a Paris-based artist from Benin whose dancing presented his homeland's animist rituals and voodoo tradition, and the Flemish multi-talented Jan Fabre whose “Een dood normale vrouw” (A Boringly Normal Woman) was his third text for



the theatre. Is it possible for the spectrum to be broader, for the artistic approach to be more contrasted? Here the African dancer whose argumentation grows out of a vital and immediate body language, and there the 80 minute monologue of a

Ways to Myth

International Dance Festival at Stuttgart

pressivity, which equals the visual fascination of Kofi Koko. She is the enraptured goddess, the shy young girl, the lascivious woman in the best of her years, the bent old crone with a stick, and the witch riding her broomstick and hissing incantations.

Words develop into interchangeable set-pieces. What remains is the myth of woman in all her uncertainty and strength, given tangible expression in the actress's movements.

“Anyone who cannot dance disgraces the family.” With those words the voodoo priest in a documentary film presented in the symposium accompanying the festival summarizes one of his culture's fundamental experiences. “Migration, Myth, and Culture—Borderline Experience of Body and Language” was the ambitious title of an event intended to supply the theoretical superstructure for danced reality.

The initiator's thesis was that “dancers are the migrants of modern society.” Dancers experimented with bodily borderline experiences and were thus said to be capable of giving artistic form to the phenomenon of migration, which has become a reality for millions of people today.

A number of scholars, critics and theater practitioners were called in to present their views but it was astonishing to observe how incapable linguistic discourse is in this area. What

Berlin theatre scholar Joac Fiebach, Lowen cultural researcher Rudi Laermans, Hamburg sociologist Uli Biele, psychologist and therapist chaela Otzel, dance c Edith Boxberger, and Drs Klac, director of the Netherlands Theatre Institute, say threw light on important and interesting themes with cultural identity and deal with the unfamiliar, but did add up to something cohesive.

What seemed realizable stage—bridge-building between Africa and Europe retreated into unattainable moteness in the discussion, dialogue did not develop between the experts and Olympe B ley-Quenum, African w and Kofi Koko's fellow co tryman, who vehemently eloquently represented his tion's cultural traditions.

Nevertheless, the Stuttgart symposium was justly supported by the Institute for Foreign Relations (IFA) and recognized by UNESCO as a contribution towards the World Decade Cultural Development, concepts of myth and migration open up a broad area of cultural discussion for the future, a tainly too broad to be covered within such an event. Yet it is good to know that this topic at least been raised since above all necessary to be where one is. ■

Keeping it simple but elegant The German Fashion House in Amman

KAREMAN BOUTIQUES are located in the Jaber Shopping Center. It could not be in a better position to maximize their cooperation with German Fashion Houses.

Mrs Kareman Saadeddin is a young ambitious woman who has persuaded prominent Fashion Houses in Germany such as JOSEPH JANARD, BERND BERGER, VIVENTY, COLLECTION M, WILLE AND PPEP to be their sole representative in Jordan.

The range is from classic wear to sport and casual wear plus a wide range of body wear and legging. The famous specialized “German” company WILLE and PPEP, in producing casual and classic ladies

wear for medium and big sizes makes the range of the Kareman Boutiques complete.

Mrs Kareman said it was not easy to gain the confidence of these German companies, especially those of the very high standard, but I have it since they know my husband Dr Fawzi who had been a banker for a long time in Germany. My husband has arranged the first step and I continued with hard work and energy. I work very hard but I enjoy my work. It is really a hobby.

Knowing the Jordanian market is essential for this kind of business. We follow up and visit exhibitions and fashion shows and compare designs, finishing quality and prices worldwide and try to have the best for the benefits of our customers and friends in Jordan. Our German partners appreciate our position and cooperate with us accordingly.

We choose the range of merchandise and check and control quality, also with the help of our German partners and if everything passes, the goods are shipped.

The ability to adapt to changing markets and to understand customers needs has helped me to move away from the tradi-

tional fashion business to a niche that requires creativity, taste and feelings for quality/price relation. My customers and friends are my best advisors, some of them are so engaged that they participate in our decisions-making strategy. My customers and myself have created a very special atmosphere in our shops. The German say “Arbeit soll Freude machen” w/c means “work should create pleasure,” and that is really true and can be reality if you also cooperate with your customers.

Our strategy is straight forward: understand the needs of our customers through personal contact and their comments and we translate this in taking part in several top exhibitions worldwide and choosing what will meet the requirements of our friends and customers.

I have found that response has been very good. ■

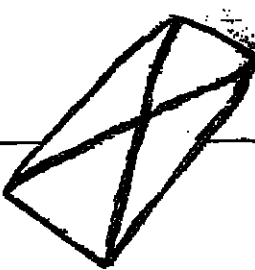


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● AMMAN (Petra)—The German government decided to accredit a new project to support Jordanian industry on basis of technology transfer and loans for Jordanian citizens wishing to establish small and medium industrial projects. The project comes within the first of German support for Jordan in the phase of peace and as appreciation for atmosphere of stability and democracy in Jordan which requires parallel economic growth. The German government has allocated \$6 thousand for this project which will start next week. The area of the project will include Jordan, Egypt and Palestine in first stage to be expanded in the future.

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Les Irakiens doivent encore attendre

«La résolution 986 de l'Onu concernant l'Irak, dite «pétrole contre nourriture», pourrait entrer en application avant la fin de l'année, a indiqué lundi M. Yasushi Akashi, sous-secrétaire de l'Onu aux affaires humanitaires. «Je ne peux pas spéculer, mais je pense que ce sera une question de semaines», a déclaré M. Akashi. Il a rappelé que la «population irakienne» avait lancé vendredi un appel pour une aide de 39,9 millions de dollars pour une période allant d'octobre à novembre. M. Akashi a rappelé que l'Onu souhaite que la résolution «puisse être mise en œuvre aussi vite que possible pour alléger les souffrances», précisant que la situation sur place faisait l'objet d'un suivi quotidien. La résolution 986 autorise l'Irak à vendre pour deux milliards de dollars de pétrole tous les six mois afin d'acheter, sous contrôle international, des vivres et des médicaments pour sa population qui souffre de l'embargo imposé après l'invasion du Koweït en 1990.

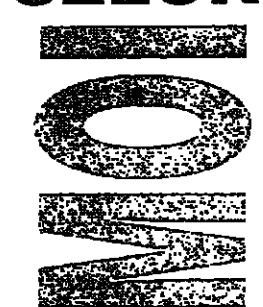


Emeutes

La guerre pour dénoncer le non-respect de la paix

La Cisjordanie et la bande de Gaza ont connu cette semaine les émeutes les plus meurtrières depuis 1967. Trois jours d'émeutes au cours desquels plus de 80 personnes ont perdu la vie. Si l'ouverture par Israël d'un nouvel accès à Jérusalem du tunnel longeant l'Esplanade des mosquées a été l'étincelle déclenchant cette vague de violence, elle résulte surtout du ras-le-bol des Palestiniens qui désespèrent de l'application des accords de paix signés avec Israël.

SELON



Quand les armes parlent. La seule voix qu'on peut entendre est le bruit du sang qui coule. Cette citation résume bien la situation que connaît non seulement Jérusalem, mais toute la région.

Au-delà d'une affaire qui apparaît, à priori, comme un simple malentendu à propos du percement d'un tunnel, il s'agit bien ici d'une accumulation de signes et de pratiques politiques qui ont canalisé des millions d'esprits passionnés désireux de voir plus qu'une simple histoire de tunnel.

Et ce ne sont pas simplement trois communautés qui se trouvent prises au piège dans cette ville symbole, mais derrière elles trois grandes confessions que représentent les trois seules grandes religions monothéistes: le judaïsme, l'islam et le christianisme.

Jérusalem, donc, ne concerne pas simplement les seuls protagonistes qui la vénèrent. Elle concerne le monde entier. Pour certains, c'est la sainte Jérusalem. Pour d'autres, c'est leur capitale actuelle ou future et pour la majorité, c'est le lieu où s'exerce leur volonté politique et donc un axe de leur puissance.

Voilà la question d'un aspect passionnel, comme c'est le cas, ne fait qu'empirer les choses et ne contribue qu'à la situation actuelle qui voit à la fois la ville sainte, le processus de paix et tout le Moyen-Orient, pris en otages.

Palestiniens et Israéliens ne sont pas les seuls à avoir des intérêts à défendre dans cette ville. Tout au long de son histoire, Jérusalem a souvent connu la domination ou l'administration de puissances étrangères, même si celles-ci ne faisaient pas vraiment partie du paysage local. Ces puissances étrangères ont pu protéger leurs intérêts grâce à des accords respectés et appliqués. Ainsi, la France a été l'une des protectrices des Lieux saints au 16^{ème} siècle, lors de la période ottomane de Jérusalem.

L'appel du roi Hussein en faveur de la formation d'une commission internationale pour examiner les éventuelles retombées du percement de ce tunnel n'est donc pas vain. L'Unesco, en tant qu'organisme chargé de la sauvegarde de l'héritage culturel de l'humanité pourrait déclarer les Lieux saints monuments historiques sous protection internationale.

Les trois religions pourraient créer un comité pour s'assurer du respect réciproque de leurs intérêts religieux et garantir un libre accès aux lieux saints ainsi qu'une liberté de culte pour tous. Dépasser le débat serait uniquement possible avec une action internationale, et non régionale.

Peut-on aujourd'hui s'attendre à voir une telle décision prise? Et pourquoi ne serait-elle pas franco-jordanienne afin que le monopole de la liberté religieuse ne soit possédé que par le seul Dieu des trois religions. Les juifs, les musulmans et les chrétiens de France et de Jordanie devraient réfléchir à une telle initiative avec les efforts des deux gouvernements respectifs pour sortir la région entière du tunnel dans lequel elle se trouve. Ceci afin que les Palestiniens ne se mettent pas, eux aussi, à réclamer leur O Jérusalem sur le chemin de la Via Dolorosa.

Ahmad N'Sour

Des dizaines de

milliers de Palestiniens dans les rues de Cisjordanie et de Gaza, de violents affrontements entre les manifestants palestiniens et les soldats israéliens, des hélicoptères israéliens tirant sur la foule, des chars israéliens pénétrant à Naplouse et différentes villes de Cisjordanie, des échanges de tir entre soldats israéliens et la police palestinienne: voilà à quoi ressemblait le «jeudi noir» explosif qui a suivi l'annonce de l'ouverture d'un nouvel accès au tunnel longeant la mosquée d'Al Aqsa (voir encadré).

Cette explosion était prévisible depuis plusieurs semaines, le chef de l'OLP Yasser Arafat l'avait évoquée en termes clairs dans le camp de réfugiés de Balta, près de Naplouse, voilà un mois après la démolition d'un centre pour handicapés à Jérusalem. Tous les responsables et milieux politiques palestiniens, internationaux et même israéliens avaient mis en garde le gouvernement israélien contre une telle explosion.

Ses raisons sont nombreuses, à commencer par la confiscation des terres palestiniennes, le bouclage des territoires, les

nombreuses arrestations, le retard du redéploiement d'Hébron et une situation économique de plus en plus catastrophique. Comme l'explique Saeb Irikat, ministre palestinien du Pouvoir local, il serait possible d'écrire un livre avec les 33 violations relevées des accords de paix.

Les réactions à cette situation se faisaient de plus en plus vives. L'Autorité nationale palestinienne avait elle-même mis en place depuis des plusieurs mois des comités de défense des terres palestiniennes qui regroupent toutes les tendances politiques, y compris le Hamas ou le FPLP. Le discours officiel palestinien commençait à se durcir à l'encontre de l'immobilisme du gouvernement de Netanyahu qui souhaitait renégocier le processus de paix et notamment la question du redéploiement d'Hébron. Les jeunes du Fatah avaient eux-mêmes appelé à des manifestations contre la colonisation.

Mais ce qui n'était pas prévisible, c'est la violence des affrontements qui allaient suivre et les tirs israéliens sur la population et la police palestinienne. Plus de 60 Palestiniens sont morts au cours de trois jours



Trois Palestiniens sont morts sur l'Esplanade des mosquées de Jérusalem à l'issue de la grande prière du vendredi.

d'émeutes et un millier blessés. Jamais un bilan n'a été aussi lourd lors d'une seule journée d'affrontements depuis l'occupation en 1967, y compris pendant l'Intifada.

Sur le plan politique, le Premier ministre israélien persiste

dans la voie de l'intransigeance en refusant de fermer le tunnel et en refusant de s'engager à respecter les accords signés par le gouvernement précédent. Au plus fort de la crise, les Israéliens cherchaient à organiser un sommet bilatéral entre MM. Netanyahu et Arafat à Erez, à la frontière entre la bande de Gaza et Israël. Mais les Palestiniens, soucieux des garanties du gouvernement, échaudés par la première ren-

contre entre les deux hommes qui n'a donné aucun résultat concret. C'est finalement à Washington que se sont retrouvés hier Yasser Arafat, Benjamin Netanyahu, le roi Hussein et Bill Clinton pour des entretiens qui doivent se poursuivre aujourd'hui en vue de résoudre cette crise. L'Egypte a elle-même décliné l'invitation américaine.

De Gaza, Hassan Balawi

Une nécessaire garantie internationale

Pour Ahmad Abdel Rahman, secrétaire général palestinien du Conseil des ministres, seule une garantie internationale de l'exécution des accords d'Oslo pourrait désamorcer la crise actuelle.

H.B.: Quel enseignement tirez-vous de cette première escalade depuis Oslo?

A.A.: L'enseignement principal réside dans le fait que tout arrêt du processus de paix conduit à son explosion et à une déstabilisation générale de la situation.

H.B.: Que faut-il faire pour sortir de cette impasse?

A.A.: L'arrêt immédiat de la politique actuelle israélienne en ce qui concerne Jérusalem, la colonisation et l'application des accords concernant le redéploiement d'Hébron.

H.B.: Estimez-vous que le sommet Netanyahu-Arafat puisse débloquer la situation?

A.A.: Si les conditions sont remplies, à savoir le respect par Israël des accords de paix, je pense que ce sera un bon

point de départ pour relancer le processus de paix. Mais nous souhaitons obtenir des garanties internationales pour obtenir le respect des accords.

H.B.: Et si vous n'obtenez pas ce que vous exigez?

A.A.: Nous aurons alors le choix dans nos démarches. Nous ferons appel aux instances internationales en s'appuyant sur les résolutions fermes du Conseil de sécurité.

Propos recueillis par Hassan Balawi

Education

Les droits de l'Homme en marge des livres

Un projet de l'Institut arabe des droits de l'Homme vise à étudier la place actuelle des droits de l'Homme dans les manuels scolaires de dix pays arabes. Car sans enseignement préalable, le respect de ces droits s'avère par la suite encore plus difficile.

«Le rôle de

l'éducation dans le renforcement des valeurs des droits de l'Homme» dans les sociétés arabes. Tel était le thème de la réunion organisée récemment à Amman par l'Institut arabe des droits de l'Homme (IADH).

Des experts et des académiciens venus de dix pays arabes ont fait durant deux jours le bilan de leur travail de recherche avant de se lancer dans la dernière phase d'un projet ambitieux dirigé par l'IADH, une organisation basée à Tunis. Il s'agit d'étudier minutieusement les livres scolaires pour déterminer la part qu'y occupent les droits de l'Homme. Les programmes scolaires d'enseignement préparatoire et élémentaire de dix pays arabes (Algérie, Egypte, Emirats arabes unis, Jordanie, Liban, Maroc, Mauritanie, Soudan, Syrie et Tunisie) sont ainsi à l'étude. Dix pays qui ont ratifié les deux conventions internationales des droits civiques et politiques, et des droits économiques, sociaux et culturels.

Pour atteindre l'objectif du projet, l'IADH a formé voilà quelques mois une équipe dans chaque pays arabe afin d'effectuer les recherches nécessaires. Une équipe dite centrale basée à Tunis est elle chargée de faire la synthèse des dix études qui sont en préparation dans chaque pays. «La réunion d'Amman a permis de faire le point sur le travail déjà fait à travers les rapports présentés, de discuter de la méthodologie et d'aplanir les difficultés rencontrées par les chercheurs», explique Tayeb Bakkouch, directeur du projet.

Les résultats de cette étude seront ensuite présentés à la conférence arabe sur l'éducation et les droits de l'Homme qui se tiendra à Bey-

rout au mois de mars de l'année prochaine.

Cette conférence sera organisée en coopération avec l'Unesco et le centre onusien de Genève pour les droits de l'Homme. Selon M. Bakkouch, qui occupe également les fonctions de président du comité scientifique au sein de l'IADH, des représentants des différents ministères arabes de l'Education, notamment ceux chargés de l'élaboration des livres scolaires, ainsi que des experts dans l'éducation des droits de l'Homme, devraient prendre part à cette conférence en compagnie de représentants de différentes organisations non gouvernementales.

Les recommandations que cette conférence adoptera seront d'une importance capitale car elles contribueront à l'introduction des principes et des idées des droits de l'Homme dans le système éducatif arabe. En fait, ce projet s'inscrit dans le plan de travail établi par l'IADH pour la période allant de 1995 à 1999, il conjugue deux secteurs qui sont au cœur des préoccupations de l'IADH, à savoir l'éducation et la recherche.

Ce projet coïncide également avec la décennie des Nations Unies pour l'enseignement des



L'IADH lutte pour un meilleur enseignement des droits de l'Homme dans les écoles arabes.

droits de l'Homme (1995-2004). «L'étude sur les livres scolaires arabes constituerait la contribution arabe à cette décennie» commente avec fierté M. Bakkouch.

Le fait d'enseigner correctement les droits de l'Homme aux jeunes générations permettrait probablement de gagner du temps pour obtenir le respect de ces droits, ne serait-ce que dans quelques décennies.

Suleiman Sweiss

Pour la venue du président français Jacques Chirac en Jordanie prévue vers la fin du mois d'octobre, le Jourdain et le Star publieront un supplément spécial. Un événement majeur dans les relations jordanaises-françaises qui vous offre la possibilité de faire de la publicité pour votre société ou votre entreprise. Pour tout renseignement, contactez Olivier Bras ou Mahmoud Fares au 645 380.

«Une provocation israélienne»

Le prince Hassan a qualifié de «provocation contre le sentiment des Arabes et des musulmans» l'ouverture par Israël de ce nouvel accès au tunnel. Il a rappelé que la déclaration de Washington, signée en juillet 1994 entre le souverain hachémite et le Premier ministre israélien de l'époque Yitzhak Rabin reconnaît «un rôle spécial de la Jordanie dans la gestion des lieux saints de Jérusalem».

Le roi Hussein a lui-même nettement haussé le ton contre le gouvernement de Netanyahu, déclarant dans un communiqué commun avec l'émir du Qatar chez qui il effectuait une visite que le gouvernement israélien était «responsable de l'escalade», l'appelant à «appliquer ses engagements».

De Gaza, Hassan Balawi

Irbid

Une récolte un peu maigre

Pour sa première édition, le festival culturel d'Irbid placé sous le thème de la récolte a connu de nombreuses difficultés qui l'ont contraint à annuler une partie de ses activités.

Après un an d'échange de vue et de réflexion, Irbid a enfin accueilli son premier festival culturel à la fin du mois de septembre. C'est au centre culturel d'Irbid que cette manifestation a vu le jour, appuyée par le ministère jordanien de la Culture.

Le nom d'Al Hassad, qui signifie la récolte, a été donné au festival pour clairement établir un lien entre cette manifestation et son environnement, à savoir une région rurale et agricole. «La philosophie du festival est inspirée de cette relation très productive existant entre l'homme et la nature, en s'appuyant sur le milieu moderne du cultivateur» explique

le Dr. Insaf Rabadi, un des responsables du Centre culturel d'Irbid. «Le développement industriel exerce une influence négative et menace le secteur agricole. C'est à partir de cette idée que nous avons pensé axer ce festival vers un retour à la terre et ses traditions ancestrales».

En ce qui concerne le nom d'Al Hassad, Insaf Rabadi se réfère à l'histoire d'Irbid car «dans l'antiquité, cette ville était connue pour sa richesse en blé et sa production abondante».

Les organisateurs ont alors concocté un programme tournant autour du thème du blé et de la récolte comprenant soirées poétiques, pièces de théâtre et exposition. Troupes folkloriques, artistes, peintres et poètes sont venus présenter leur propres récoltes à ce festival.

Trois jours au lieu de sept

Ce festival prévu sur une semaine s'est ouvert sur une marche carnavalesque. Un début en fanfare qui s'est ensuite rapidement terni. Certaines expositions n'étaient pas prêtes et ont dû être annulées au dernier moment, telle qu'une exposition de photographies ou une autre consacrée à la boulangerie. Les animations annoncées n'ont pas toujours pu avoir lieu. Ainsi, sur les 30 troupes qui devaient offrir un spectacle, vingt seulement étaient présentes au rendez-vous. Quant aux deux premières soirées poétiques, elles ont été purement et simplement annulées. Et finalement, la durée du festival a été ramenée à trois jours.

«Aucun participant n'a manqué à son devoir», précise Adel Roussan, membre du comité

d'organisation du festival. «Nous avons dû annuler ces soirées pour des problèmes d'organisation». Une décision qui a déçu bon nombre de participants, tels que le poète Moussa Kaswani. «Il existe toujours des problèmes dans ce type d'événements culturels qui sont pourtant très importants dans la vie culturelle du pays. Le comité d'organisation n'a malheureusement pas tenu ses promesses en annulant ces soirées».

Les modifications de dernière minute sont en fait dues à des raisons financières et à la non disponibilité de certaines structures destinées à accueillir le festival. Des problèmes auxquels les organisateurs espèrent bien remédier dans l'avenir. «Nous avons été obligés de regrouper toutes les représentations sur les trois premiers jours en raison de la somme limitée allouée par le ministère de la Culture», explique le Dr Souleiman Al-Azrai, directeur du comité d'organisation. «Ces moyens limités et l'inadéquation de certains équipements prévus pour des manifestations sportives ont handicapé le festival. Tout cela va nous servir de leçon pour l'avenir».

L'accès devra aussi être mis sur la médiatisation de cet événement qui n'a pour cette première édition, connu qu'une faible affluence. «Ce festival est désormais inscrit dans notre pensée», explique Souleiman Al-Azrai. «Même s'il a connu certains problèmes, il a réussi à voir le jour en suivant une certaine philosophie. Nous ferons désormais de notre mieux pour valoriser cette première récolte».

Nahed Al-Khlouf

C'est la vie

L'agenda français d'Amman

Exposition

«Ghada Dahdaleh». Une jeune peintre jordanienne d'origine palestinienne, Ghada Dahdaleh, revient en Jordanie après un long séjour au Canada pour présenter son exposition «Portes et fenêtres». Jusqu'au 29-10 au Centre Culturel français.

Vidéo

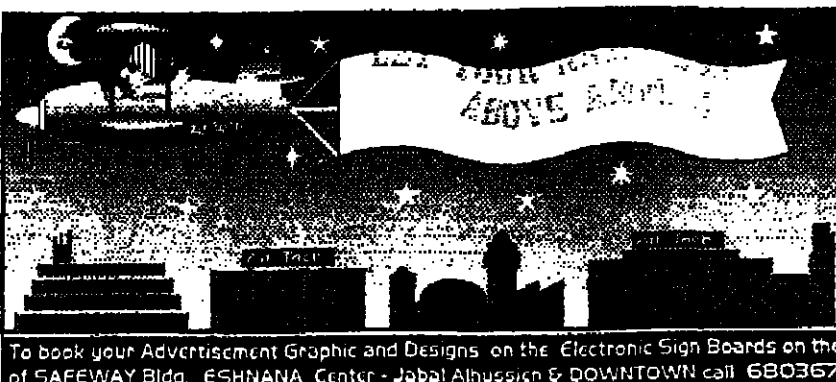
Cycle Alain Resnais: quatre films seront présentés dans le cadre de ce cycle au mois d'octobre avec pour commencer «Stravinsky». Un film réunissant Jean Paul Belmondo, Annie Duperey et François Perrier. Le 7 octobre à 20h00 au CCF.

Activities

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British Council	636147/8	Philadelphia Cinema	634144
French Cultural Centre	637009		
Goethe Institute	641993		
Caracas Institute (Spanish)	610838		
Turkish Cultural Centre	639777		
Haya Arts Centre	665195		
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Dar al Funun	643252		
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Royal Automobile Club	815410
Royal Shooting Club	736572
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Jordan Bridge Club	676990
Amman Mun. Library	636111
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THE STAR'S WORKSTATION COMPUTING & HIGH TECH

Edited by Zeid Nasser

An on-line extravaganza in Amman: Hooking up to the event, METS '96

JORDANIAN COMPANIES are preparing for the major computer and information technology event of the year, the Middle East Technology Show (METS) '96, to be held between 12 and 15 November at the Amman International Expo. Hall.

In 1994, METS came into existence replacing the Amman Computer Expo. The organizers of the event, the Jordan Computer Society believed that it was a fitting shift of name, due to the wide growth in the computer business on the regional level, in addition to the hopes and aspirations at the time that Jordan would be one of the region's information technology centres.

Two years later, the show is still dominated by Jordanian exhibitors, with few regional participants. Yet, METS still maintains its position as the largest, and most prominent information technology event in Jordan.

Local companies look towards METS '96 as an opportunity to promote their latest products and generate sales into the next year. This year, especially, METS '96 will represent a massive trend in the market, due to focus on Internet and data communications.

Therefore, the show this year is called 'The World of Internet'.

Over the course of the last year, the Jordanian market has been very active in this vital sector of information technology with many companies getting involved in the on-line revolution in the country.



Global One / Sprint Jordan, the first and only Internet service provider (ISP) in Jordan so far, launched its services in March this year. The result has been a windfall of Internet enthusiasm across the market and a massive expansion in the user base of Jordanian on-line users. An official figure would put the number of Global One / Sprint Jordan users at over 700.

Yet, most of the on-line activity in the country has come from bulletin board services, which have capitalized on the fact that the Internet on-line service is relatively expensive. The result has been a very impressive growth in the number of users on popular bulletin board services like NETS and Access. NETS, in particular, has

Have you noticed:
Everyone is talking about the Internet and on-line services. The Workstation page is turning into the forum for these topics. Fax us on 648298 or email us at Star@NETS.com.jo with your views. We and our readers want to know them.

20th century cyber "lettres de cachet": 'Cache-ing' in on the Web provides faster browsing

By Jawad Abbassi
Special to The Star

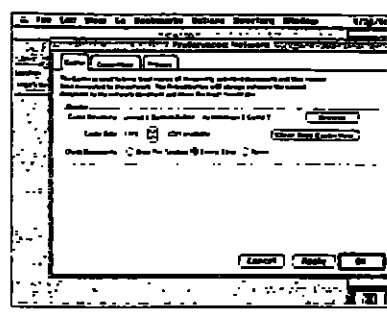
WHILE THE World Wide Web is the most colorful and artistic part of the Internet, it is definitely the slowest to use. The picture and graphics-filled web pages take much time to load over the phone lines, making browsing an occasional nuisance.

The continuous development of more tools for web page authoring, that allow for animation and extravagant backgrounds, seems to further complicate matters. Still, a paradox lies in that the advances in technology that make the web more elaborate—and hence slower—carry with them techniques that mitigate their negative impact.

For example, web page browsers allow for the option of turning off image displaying which reduces time needed for loading a web page into a computer's memory. However, this lackluster method is overshadowed by the Cache technique. Cache is a word of French origin that means "to store and hide." Originally, the word had an infamous connotation because of rampant use of the "Lettres de cachet" (the sealed envelopes) to "arrest and hide" political dissidents in the France of Louis XVI. However, in the modern global village of the Internet, the word has gained deserved acclaim and appreciation.

Caching a web page is essentially keeping temporary copies of already visited web pages in

the computer's memory, which expedites web browsing as it only loads web pages already



stored in the computer instead, or re-accessing them over the Internet. Browser applications allow the users to specify the amount of disk space used for web page caching which they set according to the amount of disk space they can spare for such a purpose. Whenever the user accesses a web page, the browser automatically caches (stores and hides) the web page's text and graphics.

Should the user, after some time, return to view the same web page, the browser checks for any changes on the web page, and if there aren't any changes, it just retrieves the web page stored in the cache and saves the user some valuable browsing time.

Furthermore, caching techniques are evolving in a way that turns caching into an art of forecasting what the users will be seeing based on past experiences. A software add-on for Netscape Navigator, called Speed Surfer, utilizes a novel

caching technique that proves more useful than merely storing web pages visited in the past, without any means to forecast the probability of them being visited again. Therefore, Speed Surfer keeps a log of the web pages visited on a routine basis by the user, and predicts which sites the user is most likely to use and pre-caches them during on-line idle time (when the connection isn't being used) into the computer's RAM or Hard drive.

So, when users choose to browse a "predicted" web page, they get a quick display of it. Studies on this new technology suggest that Speed Surfers accurately predict up to 20% of the web sites visited by users. Speed Surfer, also caches domain name address and their corresponding domain name servers, which helps in reducing the time needed by the computer to establish a connection with the web server.

Caching is still a far from perfect solution, yet it delivers tangible benefits in relieving the burdened and slow Internet lines, as well as making browsing a much more enjoyable task for the web surfers.

Unlike the pre-French Revolution Lettres De Cachet, the new cyber Lettres De Cachet will probably prove to be a very popular solution that should only stir feelings of content and not revolutionary sentiment!

email: Abbassi@NETS.com.jo

News update

JCS Quiz Night

● The social committee at the Jordan Computer Society, in cooperation with Woman's Committee in the Jordan Medical Association, is holding a Quiz Night on 10 October, 1996.

This Quiz Night follows the success of previous similar events organized by the Jordan Computer Society. The ticket price is JD 10 and the event will be accompanied by a dinner buffet. Prizes are on offer and the Quiz Night is sure to be fun and educational.

For more information, contact the Jordan Computer Society (JCS) at telephone 683549.

Compaq Armada sets sail

● Compaq Computer has recently announced its latest range of multimedia notebooks, called the 'Armada'. These new systems incorporate the best of the Compaq LTE 5000 range and add many features.

By utilizing more components, yet retaining lightweight, the Compaq Armada is set to replace the Contura line.

The Armada 4100 allows users to remove components and put them back in, to allow for flexibility variable weights. For more information on the Compaq Armada range, con-

tact Ideal Tech at telephone 688123.

GFTEX '96: Bigger and better

● This year, the Gulf Information Technology Exhibition (GFTEX) '96, held in Dubai, promises to be bigger and better, with over 400 participating companies from twenty seven countries. GFTEX is the biggest information technology show in the region, and is attended by all prominent industry companies and personnel.

The show will be held at the Dubai World Trade Center between 3 and 7 November, 1996.

Baggio's goal, a reminder of better times

MILAN—Roberto Baggio showed he has lost nothing of the skill that earned him the title of the world's best player three years ago when he came off the bench and scored for Milan in their 3-0 win over Perugia on Sunday.

These have been hard times for Baggio, world player of the year in 1993 and Italy's hero in the World Cup in 1994.

Now an expensive reserve at Milan where he has lost his place in the starting line-up to George Weah and Marco Simone, "the divine ponytail" has been forced to kick his heels in frustration.

But after coming on in the second half as substitute for Massimo Ambrosini he scored Milan's third goal with an impeccable free kick.

"That goal makes up for a lot of disappointment," said Baggio after the game

which had begun with Milan fans displaying banners of support for the former FIFA Player of the Year.

Weah set Milan on their winning way scoring his side's opening two goals to bring his tally to seven goals in six games and his league tally to five: "What interests me at the moment is that Milan continues to pick up points and stay near the top. It's no good to me if I score goals and Milan loses," said Weah afterwards.

Milan's Uruguayan coach Oscar Washington Tabarez expressed his satisfaction at a win which came despite the injury-enforced absences of important players such as Franco Baresi, Yugoslav Dejan Savicevic, Dutchman Edgar Davids and Demetrio Albertini.

"This win was very important because of the way the side reacted both to the problems posed by Perugia and by our emergency line-up."

After only four matches, two familiar names are already out in front—European champions Juventus and Italian champions AC Milan.

Both sides followed up on impressive midweek Champions League wins with Sunday triumphs which leave Juventus on top of the table with 10 points, one clear of AC Milan, with Internazionale a further point away in third.

Even at this early stage of the season, the big two of Italian soccer look by far the most competitive and complete sides in Serie A.

After Juventus had defeated Fiorentina 1-0 at home on Sunday night, their coach Marcello Lippi was quick to play down the early season table standings, saying: "Even if it's true that you never go top of the table by accident, we've still played only four games so far and that's not enough to start making plans."

"You've also got to bear in mind that all the big sides have yet to reach their best."

Maradona will no longer play in Argentina

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina.—Soccer star Diego Maradona said Sunday that he almost certainly will no longer play in Argentina.

Maradona returned Saturday from Europe, where he underwent medical treatment for his addiction to cocaine.

"I regret to say, but almost certainly I will no longer play soccer in Argentina," he said at a press conference. "My decision has been made in almost 60 percent."

Maradona, who will be 36 on 30 October, confirmed that the Spanish team Rayo Vallecano was interested in him, but did not elaborate. His contract with the local Boca Juniors team is still in effect, but Maradona has not played since mid-August.

Maradona said he had "hired a battalion of lawyers" to respond to accusations that he was responsible for an alleged switch of drug testing samples after a game between Boca Juniors and Deportivo Espanol last month.

A federal judge is investigating allegations that the test was positive and that local soccer authorities changed it to protect Maradona.

Maradona was scheduled to appear before the judge Monday.

"I had planned to remain in Europe but decided to return to Buenos Aires to see the faces of these cowards," Maradona said, referring to the accusations.

The weekly magazine Noticias reported Sunday that Maradona may have suffered irreversible brain damage due to his cocaine addiction, affecting his soccer performance and his social behavior.

On March 17, 1991, when he played for the Italian Napoli team, he tested positive for cocaine after an Italian League match against Bari. The Italian Soccer League suspended him for 15 months on 6 April, 1991.

After returning to Buenos Aires, Maradona was arrested by the Argentine

Federal police April 26, 1991, and charged with possession and distribution of drugs.

After playing for the Spanish Seville club and for several Argentine teams, Maradona was chosen captain of the local national selection for the 1994 World Soccer Cup.

On 25 June, 1994, after

Argentina beat Nigeria 2-1, he tested positive for ephedrine, a banned stimulant. On 24 Aug, the World Soccer Federation suspended Maradona for 15 months, retroactive to June 30. When his suspension ended, Maradona signed with the Boca Juniors.

In late August, Maradona announced he would undergo treatment for his cocaine addiction in a Swiss clinic. Last year, Maradona volunteered to assist in the Argentine government's anti-narcotics campaign, claiming his personal experience could be useful for young people tempted to use drugs.



Gordon wins Tyson Holly Farms 400

By Sandra McKee
LA Times-Washington Post
News Service

NORTH WILKESBORO.—In a telling twist, Jeff Gordon, the driver who most represents the changing face of Winston Cup racing, won the last race scheduled at this tiny, five-eighths-mile speedway in the Carolina hills.

A standing-room crowd of more than 40,000 jammed the North Wilkesboro Speedway to witness the running of the Tyson Holly Farms 400 and the end of an era after a half a century, as NASCAR moves its major-league series to new and bigger facilities in Texas and New Hampshire next season.

"I'm tickled to win for a lot of reasons," said Gordon, after his Chevrolet beat Dale Earnhardt's to the finish line by 1.73 seconds.

"Junior Johnson, a lot of guys, started here and did so many great things here," said Gordon. "And, we're never going to see another Winston Cup race here again as far as we know. So if you didn't do it today, if you didn't get your name in the record book here today, there isn't any way to win at all the places, at all the tracks you want to in a career."

The victory is Gordon's third consecutive one, his fourth in five races, and he hasn't finished worse than second in his last six starts.

This is also his 10th win of the season, the most since Earnhardt won 11 in 1987, and gives him a 110-point lead over his teammate Terry Labonte in the points race with just



four races to go.

"No lead is big enough or comfortable enough for me right now," said Gordon, who led by 302 points after this race a year ago and wound up winning the title by just 34.

Dale Jarrett, who finished third, is 182 points back in the championship race and Earnhardt is in fourth, 351 back.

"I wanted to win this race," said Earnhardt, who concludes his North Wilkesboro career with 32 top 10 finishes in 36 races. "I punished the heck out of the tires trying to run Gordon down. But you've got to be there at the end. We weren't and he was."